



2018–19 TASB Officers

James de Garavilla

President

Lee Lentz-Edwards

President-Elect

Jim Rice

First Vice-President

Ted Beard

Second Vice-President

Charles Cunningham

Secretary-Treasurer

Teresa Flores

Immediate

Past President

*A report on the April 2019 TASB Board of Directors Meeting
Austin, Texas*

New Member Center for Trustees

TASB launched an online Member Center for school trustees on April 1. The mobile-friendly site puts information and resources relevant to board service front and center for trustees.

The new Member Center replaces the Especially for Board Members experience when trustees log into the TASB website. The same applications and resources are still available, along with a dashboard of additional content aimed at making the work of school board members a little easier and more effective. Trustees can check out the Member Center at tasb.org/trustees and use their myTASB login to unlock their new dashboard now.

The Member Center will grow with trustees' input, so feedback is important. Trustees can sign up as beta testers to get sneak peeks of upcoming features and provide their opinions, or they can use the hearts feature at the bottom of pages to provide a quick reaction to a page.

Content, features, and secure access for other TASB members and district staff are being planned.

Advocating for School Funding

Last week, the Texas House passed House Bill 3, which adds a much needed \$6.3 billion to public schools and dedicates \$2.7 billion for property tax relief. The House's school finance reform bill is

comprehensive, reforms outdated funding formulas, invests in public schools, reduces recapture, and compresses property taxes. However, the fight for public schools is not over yet. The bill now moves to the Senate.

Through a social media advocacy campaign, TASB is mobilizing public school advocates to contact their legislators. To date, advocates have used the [Texans for Strong Public Schools advocacy hub](#) to send more than 19,000 letters to their lawmakers this session.

School trustees are invited to take action:

- [Contact your senator](#), along with the chair and vice-chair of the Senate Education Committee, and urge them to support comprehensive school finance reform to match the House bill.
- Text "Schools" to 313131 to receive advocacy updates from TASB throughout the session.
- [Watch this short video primer on five things to know about public school finance](#). Then share it with your friends, family, and colleagues. The more informed the voting public is about these issues, the more effective we'll be as advocates for Texas public schools.

TASB recommends using a personal, nondistrict e-mail address for legislative advocacy messages. Board members and district staff should keep in mind the laws associated with legislative advocacy. [Read TASB Legal Services' frequently asked questions on the subject](#).

Student Video Contest Winners Announced

Six schools have been selected as winners of TASB's biennial [Student Video Contest](#). The videos illustrate the value of public education and emphasize the many positive aspects of Texas public schools. The contest was open to all Texas elementary and secondary public school students, and winners were selected in three categories: elementary, middle/junior high, and high school.

Congratulations to the winners!

First-place, earning a prize of \$5,000 for use in the students' classroom or campus:

- [Zavala Elementary School, Harlingen CISD](#)
- [Valley View Junior High School, Valley View ISD \(Hidalgo County\)](#)
- [Seguin High School, Seguin ISD](#)

Second-place, receiving \$2,500:

- [Taft Elementary School, Port Neches-Groves ISD](#)
- [Coppell Middle School North, Coppell ISD](#)
- [Belton New Tech High School, Belton ISD](#)

In addition, a People's Choice in each of the three categories was chosen based on the videos most viewed from start to finish by visitors to the online gallery. These winners receive no monetary prize but may be included among the videos displayed statewide at various TASB events.

- [Zavala Elementary, Harlingen CISD](#)
- [Park Crest Middle School, Pflugerville ISD](#)
- [Friendswood High School, Friendswood ISD](#)

Students were asked to tell what makes their school exceptional, how their school is making a difference in students' lives and future success, and what makes Texas public schools the best choice. [View all of the entries on the TASB website.](#)

TASB Advocacy Agenda

The second year of the [TASB Advocacy Agenda](#) biennium provides members with an opportunity to amend the current Agenda. Proposed changes will be considered by the [2019 Delegate Assembly](#) in Dallas.

Call for Resolutions

Resolutions guide TASB's response to issues that may arise during the legislative session or interim that are not included in the Advocacy Priorities. [School boards may submit resolutions](#) to amend the current Advocacy Agenda between April 1 and June 17.

Legislative Advisory Council Meeting

The Legislative Advisory Council (LAC) will meet June 15 following the Summer Leadership Institute in San Antonio. LAC members will hear a status report on the progress made toward accomplishing advocacy goals and suggest revisions to the [2018–20 Advocacy Priorities](#).

Trustees Serving on National Boards

Three Texas school board members have been elected to officer positions on national school-related boards. The elections took place during the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) Annual Conference, March 30-April 1, in Philadelphia. Viola Garcia, Aldine ISD trustee and TASB past president, is the new secretary/treasurer of the NSBA Board of Directors. Armando Rodriguez, Canutillo ISD trustee and TASB director, was named chair of the National Hispanic Council of School Board Members, and Jacinto Ramos Jr., Fort Worth ISD trustee, was named chair of Council of Urban Boards of Education.

Carla Windfont, Crosby ISD trustee, is continuing to serve as chair of the National Black Council of School Board Members.

In addition, Joy Baskin, division director of TASB Legal Services, was elected vice-chair of the NSBA Council of School Attorneys.

New School Finance Course Available Online

In mid-February, TASB launched Understanding School Finance, a course designed specifically for trustees on the essentials of the current Texas school finance system. Available in the [Online Learning Center](#) (OLC), the course consists of nine brief (six to ten minutes) interactive videos across

a variety of topics, including the basic allotment, student weights, recapture, Tier 2 Enrichment funding, bond basics, and Tier 3 Facilities funding programs.

Each lesson also includes links to related resources, a glossary, and advocacy tips for trustees who may want to discuss related issues with their legislators.

The course is being offered free of charge to TASB members and counts toward Tier 3 continuing education requirements. A similar course is available to nonmembers who establish a login to the OLC. Feel free to share this resource with your community.

Facebook Regional Group Pilot

The results of a Facebook group pilot in Region 20 were presented by the TASB directors who have served as moderators over the past few months. While the number of trustees choosing to sign up for the Facebook information-sharing opportunity were small, it was decided that the experiment will continue, expanding to additional regions for the remainder of the pilot.

Upcoming Training

Spring Workshops

The 2019 Spring Workshops kicked off in March and run through May 22. These sessions are a convenient way to earn continuing education credit and learn about hot topics in education, including student and school safety, how school boards make a difference in student achievement through eXceptional Governance, information that board members need to know about the budget, legal hot topics, and updates on the 86th Legislative Session. [Find a workshop location near you.](#)

Fund Members' Conference

The [TASB Risk Management Fund Members' Conference 2019](#) will be held May 2–3 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin. This year's program features 24 breakout sessions and [three general sessions](#), including keynote speaker Merlyna Mathieu Valentine sharing the story of her near-death experience and choosing the path of positivity, a legislative update, and a panel of cybersecurity specialists and district personnel discussing the growing cyber risk faced by Texas schools.

Summer Leadership Institute and Post-Legislative Conference

The [2019 Summer Leadership Institute](#) (SLI) is scheduled for June 13–15 in San Antonio and June 20–22 in Fort Worth. Note: This year only, SLI San Antonio will be held at the Henry B. González Convention Center as the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel will be undergoing renovations. SLI Fort Worth will again be held at the Omni Fort Worth. Save time and travel costs by attending the [2019 TASB Post-Legislative Conference](#) the night before SLI starts in both locations. Follow [@tasbevents](#) and #tasbsli19 on Twitter for conference news.

TASA/TASB Convention

This year, a new marketing approach is being used for the [annual Convention: txEDCON](#). Watch for this designation in fliers and ads leading up to the event. Also new this year is the Session Selector opportunity, in which you help decide what sessions will be offered at the event in September. More than 1,400 members cast more than 9,000 votes to choose sessions for the program.

In Other Business, the Board Approved:

- Minutes of the December 1, 2018, Board Meeting
- TASB's Organizational Scorecard staff turnover rate target
- Audit services for 2018–19
- Amendments to the Association's 2018–19 budget

The next meeting of the TASB Board of Directors is July 20 in San Antonio.

Editor: [Denise Schulz](#)
TASB Communications