



2017–18 TASB Officers

Teresa Flores

President

James de Garavilla

President-Elect

Lee Lentz-Edwards

First Vice-President

Jim Rice

Second Vice-President

Ted Beard

Secretary-Treasurer

Charles R. Stafford

Immediate

Past President

*A report on the July 2018 TASB Board of Directors Meeting
Horseshoe Bay*

Getting Ready for the 86th Legislative Session

The TASB Delegate Assembly plays a key role in TASB's governance—shaping the Advocacy Agenda for the coming biennium. The Advocacy Agenda is the action plan TASB will use to advocate for public schools. Through a grassroots process, all local Texas school board members had the opportunity to develop the Advocacy Priorities and Resolutions that will make up the agenda for 2018–20.

The TASB Board approved the proposed 2018–20 Advocacy Agenda Priorities and Resolutions for submission to the [2018 Delegate Assembly](#) for approval. The Assembly, set to meet September 29 during the [TASA/TASB Convention](#) in Austin, will have final say on TASB's advocacy action plan for the upcoming legislative session. The *Delegate Assembly Handbook* with the complete Advocacy Agenda under consideration will be posted in early September.

Keynote Speaker: Jimmie Don Aycock

[Jimmie Don Aycock, former Texas state representative, will join the TASB Delegate Assembly](#) to share his insights as a vocal defender of Texas public schools.

New This Year

Delegates attending the Assembly will earn free [TASB Online Learning Center](#) (OLC) courses for their boards! Every district represented at the Assembly will receive a special pass for each of its trustees to complete an OLC course of their choosing.

Delegate Registration

Each local board may appoint one delegate and one alternate for the Assembly. Take action this summer to ensure your board is represented at Delegate Assembly. Visit delegate.tasb.org to register your delegate and alternate.

Social Media Advocacy Efforts to Debut at TASA/TASB Convention

During the last legislative session, TASB took new steps to increase advocacy efforts on behalf of Texas public schools. The initiative relied heavily on the use of social media to generate support for public education funding and opposition to school vouchers. By the end of the regular and special sessions, more than 16,000 people had registered with the site and sent about 50,000 letters to Texas lawmakers on the two topics.

For the upcoming legislative session, TASB will expand the campaign. The new campaign will kick off at the [TASA/TASB Convention](#), September 28–30, in Austin.

Nominations Slate Approved

A slate of TASB Officers was recommended by the Nominations Committee and favorably voted upon by the Board for submission to the [2018 Delegate Assembly](#). At the conclusion of the [TASA/TASB Convention](#), current President Teresa Flores of Ingleside ISD will become immediate past president; current President-Elect James de Garavilla of Silsbee ISD will become president.

Four other Officers will be elected by the 2018 Assembly and take their positions at the end of Convention. For those seats, the TASB Board recommends the following:

- President-Elect: Lee Lentz-Edwards, Kermit ISD
- First Vice-President: Jim Rice, Fort Bend ISD
- Second Vice-President: Ted Beard, Longview ISD
- Secretary-Treasurer: Charles Cunningham, Humble ISD

Safety Summit to be Held September 13

Following an incident of school violence, a variety of ideas emerge on how best to prevent future tragedies. One underlying element generally agreed upon is that collaboration between educators and law enforcement is essential.

In an effort to facilitate that collaboration, the TASB Risk Management Fund invites member organizations and their local law enforcement agencies to [Partnering for Safe Schools: A Safety and Security Summit](#), a daylong event to gain practical tips for keeping schools safe learning and working environments. The summit is set for September 13 at the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock.

The event is open to Fund members at no cost. [Registration is now open](#). The summit also will be offered virtually. Members participating remotely are encouraged to do so together with their local law enforcement and first responders.

SB 1566 Training Available Online

Passed in the last legislative session, Senate Bill (SB) 1566 introduced [new required training for trustees on evaluating student academic performance and the oversight role of the school board](#). State law requires that all trustees complete this training no later than September 1. New board members have 120 days to complete the training after election or appointment.

TASB is pleased to offer this training in our Online Learning Center. TASB's SB 1566 training is research-based, highlighting practices shown to strengthen board-superintendent relationships and improve student achievement. To access the course, visit onlinelearning.tasb.org and log in with your myTASB password. The fee to complete the course is \$50.

Make Plans to Attend Convention in Austin

The [2018 TASA/TASB Convention](#) will take place September 28–30 in Austin. [Registration](#) and [housing](#) are open, and special preregistration pricing will be available through September 22. In addition to an array of training sessions, Convention offers one-of-a-kind learning experiences, such as [field trips](#),

specialized training for [small school districts](#) and [new board members](#), and [preconference workshops](#).

This year's keynote speakers include the gubernatorial candidates (who have been invited but not yet confirmed); LaDainian Tomlinson, NFL Hall of Fame running back and NFL network analyst; and Alex Sheen, founder of because I said I would. In addition, six prominent experts in education-related fields will present [Thought Leader sessions](#).

Check out the [Convention website](#) for more information about this year's program.

Regional Superintendents of the Year Named

[Nineteen regional winners of the annual Superintendent of the Year \(SOTY\) award have been announced](#). The winners now advance to the statewide SOTY competition. The state committee will interview regional winners in Austin August 24–25 and select five finalists. The Superintendent of the Year will be announced September 28 at the TASA/TASB Convention in Austin. The [SOTY program](#) has recognized exemplary superintendents for excellence and achievement in educational leadership since 1984.

Advocacy Institute Stipend Application Open

School board members across the nation will gather January 27–29, 2019, in Washington, DC, for the [National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute](#). Once again, TASB is offering a stipend for school board members interested in attending the institute.

The conference is the only national legislative event exclusively for school trustees. TASB's goal is to have a representative from each of the 36 Texas congressional districts at the conference. This past February, 70 school board members and two school administrators from Texas attended the 2018 conference, and the TASB Board awarded 32 stipends to districts for trustees to register for the conference.

Local school boards may nominate a trustee and alternate to represent their districts. The stipend covers the cost of the conference registration and is paid directly to your district. Recipients must pay for accommodations and transportation to and from Washington, DC.

[Nomination forms are due September 14](#). For more information, contact Rubén Longoria, TASB Governmental Relations, at ruben.longoria@tasb.org or 800.580.4885.

2018–19 Leadership TASB Class

This year's Convention will be the first meeting for members of the new Leadership (LTASB) class, which was announced at the summer Board meeting. [LTASB](#) is a specialized leadership development program for Texas school trustees. Participants who complete all required elements of the yearlong program graduate with a unique designation recognized by TASB. Notification letters are being sent to the new class members.

Board Hears Entity Updates

Reports on key activities of the various TASB affiliated entity boards were presented to the Board at its summer meeting. All five of the affiliated entities that are interlocal agencies, as well as TASB, are endorsed by the Mexican American School Boards Association and the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

TASB Risk Management Fund

The [TASB Risk Management Fund](#) offers liability, workers' compensation, auto, property, unemployment compensation, and data breach/privacy coverage to TASB members. The Fund has more than 1,000 members with 98 percent renewing coverage year after year. With more than \$300 million in assets, the Fund continues to grow its financial strength.

The Fund is focused on impacting school districts on a personal level and responding to changing member needs. The satisfaction indicators from Fund members on the annual member survey is a point of significant pride for the

Fund Board and TASB staff. For the fifth year in a row, 99 percent of Fund members report that they are satisfied or highly satisfied with their Fund membership and the service they receive.

Lone Star Investment Pool

TASB launched the [Lone Star Investment Pool](#) in 1991 with a simple goal: to make the job of managing public funds easier. Since then, Lone Star has grown to more than \$10 billion in average annual assets. Lone Star constantly strives to provide innovative services and tailor those services to meet member needs.

Distributed by [First Public, LLC](#), Lone Star serves government entities and administers three diverse funds with a focus on safety, liquidity, and yield. Each fund has earned Standard & Poor's highest rating (AAA), which meets the standards set by the Public Funds Investment Act, and each is marked-to-market daily to ensure districts always have up-to-date investment valuations.

The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative

[The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative](#) celebrated 20 years of service this year. Membership in the Cooperative includes more than 2,800 governmental agencies: 1,073 school districts and related entities, 983 municipalities, 454 counties, 203 other governmental agencies, and 109 universities and community colleges. Members use the [BuyBoard](#), an electronic purchasing system, to leverage their purchasing power and simplify the procurement process.

This year, the Cooperative saw continued growth in purchase volume. For the 2016–17 fiscal year, the Cooperative provided an all-time-high rebate distribution of \$7.5 million—bringing the total amount rebated to members at just over \$41.3 million since 2006.

TASB Energy Cooperative

The [TASB Energy Cooperative](#) is committed to helping members effectively manage electricity and fuel costs. Through the transportation fuel program, participants lock in a fixed rate for propane, gasoline, and diesel over a period of time and purchase fuel at market prices to meet immediate needs. The

electricity program allows participants to maximize buying power by pooling with other entities and to budget with certainty through fixed energy prices.

The Energy Cooperative continues to see record growth: more than 8.4 billion kWh of electricity is under contract through 2024, and 4.5 million gallons of fuel are locked in for members in the current fixed-rate fuel pool. In the past year, the Energy Cooperative has expanded the fuel program to include propane and heating oil. Currently, TASB staff is exploring opportunities in renewable energy.

TASB Legal Assistance Fund

The [Legal Assistance Fund \(LAF\)](#) provides support to school districts that are defending legal challenges with the potential to affect public schools statewide. More than 750 school districts participate in LAF.

In the past year, LAF received 12 requests for assistance, and all were approved by the LAF Board. LAF also filed 10 *amicus curiae* briefs in jurisdictions including the Texas Commissioner of Education, Texas Attorney General, Travis County District Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas Supreme Court, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition, LAF has played an important role in securing favorable outcomes in several significant court cases affecting public schools on such topics as confidentiality of superintendent's self-evaluation, district contributions to scholarship programs, and expiration of offer provisions in educator contracts.

TASB Benefits Cooperative

The [TASB Benefits Cooperative](#) provides school districts and their employees with a variety of employer-paid and employee-paid benefits, such as healthcare, life, long-term disability, dental, vision, and Section 125 products and plan administration. The Benefits Cooperative is administered by TASB's wholly owned subsidiary, [First Public](#), which is licensed with the Texas Department of Insurance.

The Benefits Cooperative currently works with 21 different carriers to provide benefits to 62,000 employees at school districts across the state. First Public staff is exploring new coverage lines, including expanded coverages with FSA, HSA, and COBRA.

In Other Action, the Board Approved:

- Minutes from March 22, 2018, TASB Board of Directors meeting
- 2018–19 budget
- 2018–23 TASB Benefits Cooperative Affinity and License Agreement
- TASB Energy Cooperative Service Agreement Amendment
- 2018–19 TASB Risk Management Fund Service Agreement Fee Addendum
- 2018–19 TASB Legal Assistance Fund Service Fee
- 2017–18 budget amendments
- Proposed Bylaws amendments for submission to the Delegate Assembly relating to the Advocacy Agenda and Grassroots process and to a Delegate nominee of a Director candidate

The next meeting of the TASB Board of Directors is September 27 in Austin.

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TASB Communications