



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 July 2019 TASB Board of Directors Meeting
San Antonio, Texas*

Advocacy Agenda Updates Approved

The TASB Board approved the proposed changes to the 2018–20 Advocacy Agenda Priorities and new and amended resolutions for submission to the [2019 Delegate Assembly](#) for final adoption. The Assembly is set to meet September 21 during the 2019 TASA | TASB Convention, txEDCON19, in Dallas. The *Delegate Assembly Handbook* with the proposed changes under consideration will be posted in early September.

Keynote Speaker: Ross Ramsey

Ross Ramsey, executive editor and cofounder of *The Texas Tribune*, will visit the TASB Delegate Assembly to share his insights on the 86th legislative session.

30 years, 30 rebates

2019 marks the 30th year that 100 percent of local school boards have renewed their TASB membership. To celebrate, [TASB will rebate Convention registration fees](#) for 30 lucky local school boards that send representatives to attend Delegate Assembly. (Up to eight registrations will be rebated per winning district.) Your school board must participate in the 2019 Delegate Assembly to be eligible.

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. [Preregister your representatives](#) by August 19 to receive Assembly credentials by mail. Onsite registration also will be available.

Advocacy Institute Stipend Application Open

TASB is offering a [stipend for school board members interested in attending the National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute](#). This annual event is an opportunity for school board members across the nation to gather in Washington, DC, and advocate for public schools. The 2020 event is set for February 2–4.

The conference is the only national legislative event exclusively for school trustees. TASB's goal is to have a representative from each Texas congressional district at the conference. This year, 65 Texas school board members attended the conference. The TASB Board awarded 24 stipends to districts for trustees to register for the conference

Local school boards may nominate a trustee and alternate to represent their local boards. 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 6. For more information, contact Rubén Longoria, TASB Governmental Relations, at 800.580.4885.

Officer 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 [Delegate Assembly](#). At the conclusion of the [TASA | TASB Convention](#), current President James de Garavilla of Silsbee ISD will become immediate past president; current President-Elect Lee Lentz-Edwards of Kermit ISD will become president.

Four other Officers will be elected by the 2019 Assembly and take their positions at the end of Convention. For those seats, the TASB Board recommends the following:

- President-Elect—Jim Rice, Fort Bend ISD
- First Vice-President—Ted Beard, Longview ISD
- Second Vice-President—Charles Cunningham, Humble ISD
- Secretary-Treasurer—Debbie Gillespie, Frisco ISD

Legislative Summary Now Available

Learn more about key legislation passed during the legislative session and how these changes affect public schools. The *Legislative Summary for TASB Members 2019* provides a comprehensive listing of all prepared bill summaries. The PDF is posted in the [TASB Member Center](#).

In early August, school board members also will be able to enroll in an interactive bill summary in the [TASB Online Learning Center](#). Post-Legislative Conference attendees will receive free access to the online course; watch your e-mail for access instructions.

New Training Requirements for Trustees

During the 86th legislative session, lawmakers made changes to trustee training requirements. Two additional training requirements were adopted:

- **House Bill (HB) 403 requires training on recognizing sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children.** The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has a one-hour training for educators that could meet this requirement. In previous years, Christina Green from Child Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX) provided sessions at TASB events that should qualify for meeting this requirement. Green is scheduled to present again at the 2019 TASA | TASB Convention. TASB will share more information as the training is finalized.

- **HB 3834 requires training on cybersecurity.**

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) is going to approve up to five online options. TASB hopes to become one of the approved providers for this training. Local school districts can develop their own training with certain requirements that include a cybersecurity officer on staff and that the course be subject to an audit. The deadline to complete this training is June 14, 2020—one year after the legislation was signed.

Not a training requirement, per se, but HB 3 does include a new requirement for school boards to complete goal setting. Every district must have specific goals on early childhood literacy and numeracy and a college, career, and military readiness goal. These goals must be adopted by the local school board and displayed on the district website. TASB staff will be helping districts develop these goals. The Texas Education Agency is scheduled to release rules on these requirements in September.

Getting Ready for Convention in Dallas

Housing and registration are underway for [txEDCON19, the 2019 TASA | TASB Convention](#), September 20–22 in Dallas. [Special preregistration pricing](#) is available through September 6.

This conference is designed to be a transformative experience for school leaders with a variety of sessions and activities to meet their diverse needs. Here's just some of what you can expect this year.

Get inspired and recharged with this year's [General Session speakers](#):

- Kevin Carroll, acclaimed author and social change agent who focuses on embracing the spirit of play and creativity to achieve growth
- Manny Scott, author and an original Freedom Writer whose story is told in part in the 2007 hit movie, *Freedom Writers*
- Ben Nemtin, best-selling author and cofounder of the Buried Life movement, which spreads a message of radical possibility

Register early to ensure you have a spot in these special training opportunities:

- [Field trips](#)—Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden or the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum
- [Small School District Seminar](#)
- [New School Board Member Seminar](#)
- [Board Officers' Academy](#)
- [SB 1566 Training](#)

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

Directors Elected to TASB Board

Two new Directors joined the TASB Board: Bill Lacy (Katy ISD), Region 4E, and Jacinto Ramos Jr. (Fort Worth ISD), Region 11B. Both are interim large-district positions.

A Katy resident for 21 years, [Lacy](#) joined the Katy ISD Board of Trustees in 2017. He is currently vice-president of the board and is involved in numerous community organizations.

[Ramos](#) is president of the Fort Worth ISD Board of Trustees. He also is president-elect of the Mexican American School Boards Association and chair of the National School Boards Association's Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE).

TASB Member Center Growing

More than 3,100 school board members have explored the new [TASB Member Center](#). This mobile-friendly, one-stop shop for trustees provides exclusive access to a variety of resources with new content being added regularly:

- Easy access to view and report continuing education credit

- Exclusive articles and resources for new and experienced board members
- A calendar of upcoming events
- Callouts to important dates, required training, and actions needed
- Links to legal and policy resources
- Online tools relevant to board service
- Ongoing insight into timely education topics

The Member Center is currently set up for school board members only but will be open to superintendents, administrative assistants, and other district staff in the future.

Regional Superintendents of the Year Announced

Congratulations to the [19 regional winners of the annual Superintendent of the Year \(SOTY\)](#)! The winners now advance to the statewide [SOTY competition](#). The state committee will interview regional winners in Austin August 23–24 and select five finalists. The Superintendent of the Year will be announced September 21 at the [TASA | TASB Convention](#) in Dallas. The SOTY program has recognized exemplary superintendents for excellence and achievement in educational leadership since 1984.

All-New BoardBook® Coming Soon

[BoardBook®](#), TASB's board packet preparation software, will launch an all-new version this fall. BoardBook® Premier includes improved features, such as board member voting, follow the leader, digital start and stop time, electronic hand raising, and more. The new product will be supported by the same great customer service BoardBook is known for. TASB member districts will be able to upgrade during the 2019–20 school year with no increase in cost.

Webinar and training dates will be announced soon. View a demo of the new product at boardbook.org/premier.

2019–20 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 mailed.

Board Hears Entity Reports

Reports on key activities of the various TASB-affiliated entity boards were presented to the Board at its summer meeting

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.

- More than 1,000 members
- More than \$320 million in assets
- Designated high-tier performer by the Texas Department of Insurance for seven consecutive times, and one of only two carriers to have this distinction
- Membership renewals consistently exceed 96 percent

Current areas of focus for the Fund include data privacy and information security coverage limit updates, crisis event coverage, and [roof maintenance education programs](#).

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. Lone Star constantly strives to provide innovative services and tailor those services to meet member needs.

- More than \$11 billion in average assets
- All-time high balance of \$16 billion
- Continued growth in participants, resulting in reduced fees

Distributed by First Public®, LLC, Lone Star serves government entities and administers three diverse funds with a focus on safety, liquidity, and yield.

The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative

Since 1998, [The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative](#) has helped government entities increase their purchasing power. Combining the purchasing power of local governments provides members—big and small—the leverage to achieve better pricing on products, equipment, and services they use every day.

- Distributed \$8.4 million in rebates to members
- Membership of more than 2,880 governmental agencies
- More than 250,000 purchase orders year to date

Members use the [BuyBoard®](#), an electronic purchasing system, to leverage their purchasing power and simplify the procurement process.

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.

- More than 1.292 billion kWh of electricity under contract through 2029—enough to power 124,242 residential utility customers for a year
- 9.5 million gallons of fuel purchased in 2017–18—enough to keep 14,481 drivers on the road for a year

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
- LAF assisted in 13 cases in the past year
- Nine amicus curiae briefs were filed

In addition, LAF has played an important role in securing favorable outcomes in several significant court cases affecting public schools on such topics as “walking quorums,” wrongful termination claims, and Free Appropriate Public Education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

TASB Benefits Cooperative

The [TASB Benefits Cooperative](#) provides school districts and their employees with a variety of employer- and employee-paid benefits such as healthcare, life, long-term disability, dental, vision, and Section 125 products and plan administration.

- Approximately 100,000 school employees use one or more services
- Offer 70 separate lines of coverage with 22 carriers
- Healthcare Summit held in conjunction with the TASB Risk Management Fund Members’ Conference

The Benefits Cooperative is administered by TASB’s wholly owned subsidiary, First Public, which is licensed with the Texas Department of Insurance.

In Other Business, the Board Approved:

- Minutes for April 6, 2019, Board meeting
- 2019–20 budget, including staff compensation

- Engagement of investment consultant
- The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative 2019–24 affinity and license agreement and service agreement
- TASB Risk Management Fund 2019–20 service agreement fee addendum
- TASB Legal Assistance Fund 2019–22 service agreement and 2019–20 service fee
- 2018–19 budget amendments
- Board policy changes on campaigning protocol, caucus meetings at Delegate Assembly, Nominations Committee operational guidelines, and the staff retirement plan
- Legal action to protect intellectual property rights

The next meeting of the TASB Board of Directors is September 19 in Dallas.

Editor: [Denise Schulz](#)

TASB Communications

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