



## 2017–18 TASB Officers

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*A report on the March 2018 TASB Board of Directors Meeting*

*TASB Headquarters, Austin*

## Texas Commission on Public School Finance

The Texas Commission on Public School Finance held its first meeting open to the public on March 18. One theme heard repeatedly is that the state isn't shouldering its share of the cost.

Lawmakers created the commission last year after the Texas Supreme Court found the funding system flawed but constitutional in 2016. Charged with giving the Legislature recommendations to improve school funding, its members include lawmakers, business leaders, and educators.

The last time Texas had a commission on school finance reform in the 1980s, it studied the costs in funding a high-quality education. Since then, academic standards and goals have changed. The current commission is mandated to prepare and deliver by December 31, 2018, a plan that recommends statutory changes to improve the public school finance system, including any adjustments to funding to account for student demographics. Specifically, the panel will address:

- The purpose of the public school finance system and the relationship between state and local funding in that system
- The appropriate levels of local maintenance and operations and interest and sinking fund tax effort necessary to implement a public school finance system that complies with requirements of the Texas Constitution
- Policy changes to the public school finance system necessary to adjust for student demographics and geographic diversity in the state

## TASB's School Finance Efforts

At the March 18 public hearing on school finance, TASB senior consultant Catherine Clark outlined TASB's plan to revamp the way Texas funds its schools.

The Association first developed an alternative school finance plan in 2010 and updated it in 2016. The plan, a single-tier guaranteed yield system, was intended to simplify the system, maintain equity and efficiency in state and local funding, ensure that no school district would lose funding because of the TASB plan, and control costs to the state. The TASB Board will continue to direct the Association's school finance efforts for the remainder of the year, leading up to the next legislative session.

## Senate Bill 1566 Training

September 1 is the deadline for school board members to complete [new required training on evaluating student academic performance](#). Senate Bill (SB) 1566 highlights the specific responsibility of school boards to provide oversight and strategic leadership regarding student academic achievement.

TASB Legal Services' ["Statewide Regional Board Training Related to Student Academic Performance"](#) answers frequently asked questions about the three-hour board training required by SB 1566.

Training sessions will be offered at both locations of TASB's [Summer Leadership Institute](#) in June at no additional charge. The training also is available to non-SLI attendees for a fee of \$50, which includes a meal.

In-district SB 1566 training also is available upon request. When a full board-superintendent team participates in SB 1566 training and meets the additional requirements, boards can count this as their team-building credit for the year. In addition, boards completing the five-session XG Board Development series can count that as their SB 1566 training for 2018.

## Rule Changes on Required Training Announcement

SB 1566 also changed the way school boards report continuing education credit. Previously, boards announced training credit hours at the end of the calendar year. Under the new law, the credit reporting depends on when a district holds trustee elections.

Meanwhile, the State Board of Education (SBOE) still needs to update its rule on credit reporting but may not have it finalized in time for meeting the requirement before the May election. The SBOE is expected to approve revisions to the school board member training rule on April 13.

TASB Legal Services has prepared a [memo explaining the changes and offering suggestions on what boards should do during this transitional period](#).

## Hopkins Elected to TASB Board

Tony Hopkins of Friendswood ISD has joined the TASB Board to fill the interim position in Region 4, Position C. He has served on his local board for 10 years.

A Leadership TASB graduate and master trustee, Hopkins is a member of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards and active in the TASB grassroots process. He is president of Four Creek Investments LLC, an independent energy consulting and investment firm, and has extensive experience in the energy field. Hopkins earned a bachelor's degree at Lamar University and master's degree at Rice University.

## Spotlight on Harvey Heroes

New this year to the [TASB Business Recognition Program](#) is a designation called Harvey Heroes. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize businesses and organizations, large and small, that helped schools affected by the storm.

However, the Business Recognition Program is not limited to those affected by Hurricane Harvey. All districts should let TASB help them honor every business and community group that supports our public schools. Districts can [submit as](#)

[many names as they like](#), and TASB will provide an individualized recognition packet for each business or group.

The business recognition kit provides a sample news release for the district and ideas for honoring your supporters. Along with an individualized certificate, those recognized will receive a Stand Up for Texas Public Schools lapel pin, letter of appreciation, and other small thank-you items. Honorees can be repeats from previous years, and that will be noted on the certificates. Harvey Heroes also will get a gold seal on their certificates as a special recognition.

Presentations can be made at a board meeting, reception, awards ceremonies, or at the business. [All honorees will be posted on the TASB website](#) to further provide a public thank you and increase awareness that businesses and community organizations all over the state are standing up for their public schools.

## Legislative Advisory Council

At the Grassroots Meetings, each region selected representatives to the [Legislative Advisory Council](#) (LAC), which will take the regional priorities and merge them into a draft statewide legislative program.

The first LAC meeting is set for April 7 in San Antonio, in conjunction with the [National School Boards Association Annual Conference](#). The second LAC meeting will take place on June 14 in San Antonio during the [TASB Summer Leadership Institute](#).

## Call for Advocacy Resolutions

School boards may [submit resolutions for the Advocacy Agenda](#) between April 1 and June 15. All [current resolutions](#) will expire upon adoption of the new Advocacy Agenda during the 2018 Delegate Assembly.

Resolutions help guide TASB's response to issues that may arise during the legislative session or interim that are not included in the Advocacy Priorities. The TASB Board Resolutions Committee, with research provided by TASB staff, will then make recommendations to the full Board on whether to recommend or not

recommend adoption to the TASB Delegate Assembly for final approval in September.

## Upcoming Meetings

Watch for a wide array of training and networking opportunities in the coming months.

### **2018 Spring Workshops**

All 16 of the [2018 Spring Workshop](#) dates have been set. TASB staff began the 2018 series in Kingsville on March 28 and will end with the final workshop in Huntsville on May 23.

### **National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference**

This year, the [NSBA Annual Conference](#) is coming to Texas. Texas trustees will join school board members from around the country this weekend, April 7–9, in San Antonio for the event. This year's theme is "Be Extraordinary!"

### **TASB Risk Management Fund Members' Conference**

The [Fund's Annual Members' Conference](#) will take place May 2–4 at the Hilton Austin Hotel. This premier risk management event for Texas educational entities will provide a first-rate educational and networking experience for attendees. Keynote speaker Alex Sheen will kick off the two-day event. Registration and hotel room reservations opened in late February. The Fund is offering one complimentary hotel stay for up to two nights per Fund member, based on availability.

### **Summer Leadership Institute**

#### **San Antonio: June 14–16 and Fort Worth: June 28–30**

Housing opens April 4 and registration opens April 25 for TASB's [Summer Leadership Institute](#). Among the [keynote speakers](#) is Steve Gilliland, a master storyteller and comedian who is passionate about education. Gilliland will focus on three empowering dynamics: purpose, passion, and pride.

Linda Cliatt-Wayman, a fierce advocate for children, is the Friday general session speaker. She has spent three decades fighting for children, especially

those living in poverty. Roberto Rivera will close on Saturday. Rivera is an artist, educator, and change agent who specializes in applying best practices in engaging youth.

### ***TASA/TASB Convention: September 28–30, Austin***

Gubernatorial candidates will be invited to speak at the [TASA/TASB Convention](#) during the First General Session on Friday afternoon. The number of attendees picking up badges on Thursday afternoon continues to rise. This year an informal reception will be held near the registration area from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for attendees to ask questions, network, and listen to music.

### ***XG™ Summit***

As part of TASB's eXceptional Governance project, which explores and seeks to define what eXceptional school district governance looks like in Texas, TASB will host [XG Summit II](#) January 10–11, 2019, in Austin.

The first XG Summit, in 2017, brought in national school governance researchers to report on their findings, while Texas trustees and superintendents shared promising practices related to the research. The next summit includes a national component and showcases original research and its findings in Texas.

## **In Other Action, the Board Approved:**

- Minutes for the December 2, 2017, Board meeting
- Executive director deferred compensation plan
- Authorizing the Executive Committee to approve potential new business opportunities
- Waiving the notice period for bylaws amendments adopted by The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative
- Audit services for the 2017–18 fiscal year
- Amendments to the 2017–18 fiscal year budget
- Designation of net assets for improving TASB properties
- Reaffirming the TASB Advocacy Agenda Cornerstone Principles
- Changes to Board policy on statement of commitments, understandings, and expectations for TASB officers and directors

The next meeting of the TASB Board of Directors is July 21.

Editor: [Barbara Williams](#)

TASB Communications