



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 September 2018 TASB Board of Directors Meeting and Highlights of the 2018 Delegate Assembly
Austin, Texas*

New TASB Leaders Take the Helm

Association officers and directors have been chosen to lead TASB in the coming year. President James de Garavilla, Silsbee ISD, and Immediate Past President Teresa Flores, Ingleside ISD, are automatic succession offices. The remaining slate of officers, as presented by the TASB Nominations Committee and TASB Board, was elected by the 2018 Delegate Assembly on September 29. All assumed their positions at the close of Convention.

Officers

- 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

Directors

Elected to three-year terms (2018–21), filling expired terms:

- Region 1A, Patricia O’Caña-Olivarez, Mission CISD
- Region 3, Demetrio Garcia, Kenedy ISD–Karnes County
- Region 4A, Georgan Reitmeier, Klein ISD
- Region 4C, Tony Hopkins, Friendswood ISD
- Region 4F, Bob Covey, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD*

- Region 5, Nicholas Phillips, Nederland ISD
- Region 10A, Debbie Gillespie, Frisco ISD
- Region 11D, Corinne French, Valley View ISD–Cooke County
- Region 12, Mildred Watkins, La Vega ISD
- Region 13C, Vernagene Mott, Pflugerville ISD
- Region 17, Kay Alley, Crosbyton CISD
- Region 18, Lee Lentz-Edwards, Kermit ISD
- Region 19, Armando Rodriguez, Canutillo ISD
- Region 20E, Sandy Hughey, North East ISD*

Elected to two-year term (2018–20), filling vacancy:

- TASB Region 10D, Kevin Carbo, Mesquite ISD

*Large district member

2018–20 Advocacy Agenda Approved

The 2018 Delegate Assembly also adopted the 2018–20 Advocacy Agenda, which will guide the Association through the 86th Texas Legislative Session. The Advocacy Agenda serves as TASB’s plan of action during the legislative biennium. The 2018–20 Advocacy Agenda includes 14 Priorities and 37 Resolutions. In addition, the Assembly adopted two amendments to TASB’s Bylaws relating to (1) the Advocacy Agenda and grassroots process and (2) a Delegate nominee of a TASB Director candidate.

All Delegate Assembly participants received continuing education credit and will receive access to a free Online Learning Center course for each member of their board.

Woods Wins Superintendent of the Year Award

Brian Woods, chief executive of Northside ISD-Bexar County, was named superintendent of the year (SOTY) by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) September 28 in Austin. He was selected for the prestigious award from a group of five state finalists that include Mark Porterie, Port Arthur ISD, Region

5; Tim Harkrider, Willis ISD, Region 6; Kenneth Border, Shallowater ISD, Region 17; and Juan Martinez, Clint ISD, Region 19.

The State Selection Committee noted that Woods places importance on local accountability measures and believes that learning should not only be rigorous but relevant for students. In addition, the committee cited the value he places on considering diverse viewpoints and building strong relationships as keys to effective leadership.

Woods has been in education administration for 21 years. He earned his bachelor's degree at The University of Texas at Austin and his master's and doctorate degrees at The University of Texas at San Antonio. For the past six years, he has led Northside ISD, which serves more than 106,000 students.

Woods received an award and a Superintendent of the Year ring from Balfour, program underwriter. State finalists also received awards from Balfour.

Also at Convention, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, Region 11, was named 2018 Outstanding School Board by the [Texas Association of School Administrators](#). Robin Ryan serves as superintendent. Finalist Honor Boards included:

- Lamar CISD, Region 4, Thomas Randle, superintendent
- Brenham ISD, Region 6, Walter Jackson, superintendent
- Community ISD, Region 10, Roosevelt Nivens, superintendent
- Medina Valley ISD, Region 20, Kenneth Rohrbach, superintendent

Advocacy Efforts Launched

Last legislative session, TASB introduced its social media advocacy campaign, Texans for Strong Public Schools. The website, strongtexasschools.org, offered the opportunity for supporters of public schools to send letters to their Texas lawmakers on two subjects: vouchers and school funding.

Thanks partially to outreach through Facebook and Twitter, by the end of the regular session, advocates had sent more than 34,000 letters. During the special session, 15,000 more letters flowed to legislators. Advocates took advantage of this simple path to voice concern to their elected officials. Lawmakers got the message (via almost 50,000 letters) that there were supporters of public schools among their constituents.

This year, TASB plans to build on that successful advocacy. With new website features and broadened outreach, the goal is for public school advocates to speak even more loudly to their lawmakers about the need to support Texas schools.

Another campaign kicked off at Convention—"I Care. I Vote." The goal of this get-out-the-vote effort is to encourage civic engagement and get as many Texans as possible to register and vote.

Advocacy Institute Stipends Awarded

A total of 36 trustees received stipends to participate in the 2019 Advocacy Institute January 27–29 in Washington, DC. Trustees representing 25 of the 36 Texas congressional districts will gain information and updates on important legislation impacting public education at the federal level. The stipend is paid directly to a member district as reimbursement for conference registration.

The stipend program was initiated in 2007 to boost trustee participation at the annual institute sponsored by the National School Boards Association (NSBA). The goal is to encourage at least one trustee from each congressional district in Texas to attend.

Schools Encouraged to Collaborate with Law Enforcement

The [TASB Risk Management Fund](#) (Fund) held Partnering for Safe Schools: A Safety and Security Summit September 13. Whether Fund members attended the one-day summit in-person or remotely, they were encouraged to invite representatives of their local law enforcement to foster open communication and collaboration.

Attendees heard from a range of experts on best practices and practical tips for keeping their schools safe and secure. Alissa Parker, co-founder of Safe and Sound Schools, opened the summit by sharing her personal perspective on the Sandy Hook School response and recovery efforts. Speakers from the Texas governor's office and the Texas School Safety Center closed the summit with a session on the state's expectations regarding school security and resources available to Texas public schools. Other sessions included a panel of school administrators, first responders, and emergency managers discussing how to effectively collaborate for safety; a panel of law enforcement officers discussing how to coordinate investigations and responses to school incidents; an overview of threat assessment procedures and how to reduce the risk of school violence; and an overview of building safety requirements and options for hardening schools.

Student Video Contest Begins December 3

TASB hosts the [Student Video Contest](#) every other year to coincide with the legislative session. Students are invited to make a video to show the world why their school is awesome.

This year, entries will be accepted December 3, 2018, through January 18, 2019, in three categories: elementary, middle, and high school (one entry per campus). Cash awards for their campuses are \$5,000 for first place and \$2,500 for second place in each of the three categories. Take a look at the winners from the [2017 Student Video Contest](#) to get an idea of what is in store.

Training Hours Provided by TASB Increases

Senate Bill (SB) 1566, passed last legislative session, introduced a new requirement for all Texas school board members to attend three hours of training on evaluating and improving student outcomes by September 1, 2018, and then every two years. TASB provided this training at multiple training events, in districts, and online through the [TASB Online Learning Center](#). A total of 2,072 board members received the training from TASB, 394 of those taking it online.

From August 1, 2017, to July 31, 2018, TASB provided training for 5,678 (79 percent) trustees from 920 (89 percent) Texas school districts and awarded 68,707 continuing education credit hours. The number of hours provided by TASB was up by 10 percent this year, and participation in the TASB Online Learning Center was up 44.5 percent.

Continuing Education Credit Reporting Service Improved

The [Continuing Education Credit Reporting Service](#) (CECRS) application has been updated and now reflects Tier 4 training credit. CEC Mobile, a web-based application that can be used at TASB events to report training credit instead of using a scantron form, also has been enhanced. The app is now mobile-responsive and fully integrated with myTASB. There are no more 90-minute time limits for entering credit, and members can view their full credit history. Members can access CEC mobile at cecm.tasb.org or by logging on to [myTASB](#) and selecting CEC Mobile from the list of applications.

Upcoming Training

Conference for Administrative Professionals

This school year, the [annual training conferences](#) for superintendent secretaries and other administrative professionals will be hosted at TASB Headquarters in Austin October 18–19, 2018, with a repeat February 7–8, 2019. Early-bird sessions will be hosted October 17 and February 6. The training is custom-

designed for administrative support staff who want to stay current on legal, policy, human resource, community relations, and other issues.

HR Services Training

The annual Texas School [HR Administrators Academy](#) is scheduled for October 29–30 in Austin. New and aspiring HR administrators will attend the day-and-a-half training on school district HR practices presented by HR Services staff, experienced school district administrators, and a school law attorney. HR Services is focusing this year on providing more local and regional training opportunities by increasing the number and type of training sessions offered at education service centers and districts.

Fall Legal Seminars

This November, TASB Legal Services is soaring across Texas with a “superhero” theme for the [fall Legal Seminars](#). The one-day seminars offer board members five hours of continuing education on school law topics. The topics are Student Free Speech, Working with Your School Attorney, Reducing Personnel Costs, Open Meetings Act FAQs, and Legal Update.

XG Summit 2019

Plans are underway for the [XG Summit](#) January 10–11, 2019, in Austin. Ivan Lorentzen and Bill McCaw will again be part of the program, with updates on governance research from other parts of the country. They also will present Texas-based findings based on responses to the XG board self-assessment. The first XG Summit emphasized high expectations, setting specific goals, and monitoring progress. The next summit adds an emphasis on equity—with a deeper look at governance practices that improve outcomes for all students and close achievement gaps. TASB is looking for districts that can share eXceptional Governance practices that improve student success to present at the conference.

Winter Governance Seminar (formerly Winter Governance and Legal Seminar)

At the [2019 Winter Governance Seminar](#), Thursday's sessions again will focus on all things governance related, and Friday's sessions will mix Student Voice and the board's role in student outcomes. New this year will be an expo-style opportunity for students to demonstrate things they've created, like apps and videos, and skills they are learning, like welding. Also new this year, session leaders will facilitate a conversation, Connecting the Dots, in an open space for all attendees to enhance what they take away from the event. General session speakers will be best-selling author Anne Grady and Poet Ali, who also will be hosting a "student rally" on Friday afternoon for students and district staff. The conference will be hosted at the Galveston Island Convention Center, February 21–23, 2019.

TASA/TASB Legislative Conference

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019, TASB and TASA governmental relations staff will provide an update on legislative activities and proposed bills, preparing attendees to meet with legislators and staff later that day during the [TASA/TASB Legislative Conference](#). In addition, key legislators and political observers will be invited to share their insights with attendees. School board members will earn training credit for attending the conference, which will be held at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol.

In Other Action, the Board Approved:

- Minutes for the July 21 TASB Board of Directors meeting
- Members of the 2018-19 Nominations Committee

The next meeting of the TASB Board of Directors is December 1 in Austin.

Editor: [Denise Schulz](#)

TASB Communications