



2017–18 TASB Officers

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*A report on the December 2017 TASB Board of Directors Meeting
TASB Headquarters, Austin*

Harvey-Related Activities

State and local leaders continue to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, especially school districts that must locate students who have moved, temporarily or permanently; rebuild devastated facilities and communities; and restore some semblance of normalcy for students and staff. Texas legislative leaders issued interim charges specifically related to Hurricane Harvey, and committee hearings recently addressed some of those issues affecting our public schools.

Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath, who met with the TASB Board during its December meeting, has provided presentations to legislators regarding the financial and accountability effects of the storm on Texas schools.

A few items of note:

- There are 60 counties in Governor Greg Abbott's state disaster proclamation.
- More than 1.9 million students attend public schools within these counties, 1.4 million of which were directly impacted by the storm.
- All districts in the 60-county area have reopened, with some facing longer timelines to resume operation.

E-Rate Waiver Information

Districts affected directly or indirectly should be aware of a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC oversees the federal Universal Service Fund (USF), more commonly referred to as E-rate. On

October 6, the FCC waived certain rules and deadlines as they apply to E-rate applicants in areas affected by recent hurricanes:

- [DA-17-984A1](#) is the order issued by the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau on October 6 waiving certain rules and deadlines to assist schools and libraries located in areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.
- On October 26, the FCC adopted an order providing for additional relief for affected applicants. The order authorized a second 2017 filing window for districts affected, directly and indirectly, by the hurricanes. The second filing window is set to open on November 13 and close on December 13. This is a very short time frame for most districts. USAC will be providing guidance soon on this order. Check the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) website](#) for the latest information.
- [FCC-17-139A1](#) is the order issued by the FCC opening a second filing window for those affected by Hurricane Harvey.
- For questions, please e-mail classroomconnectivity@tea.texas.gov.

Homeless Students

Morath noted that board members should check with district administrators to be sure that the number of homeless students is not underreported. Inaccurate crisis and homeless coding is problematic and does not provide a clear picture of the impact Hurricane Harvey has had on Texas schools, communities, and students. Specifically, the underreporting of McKinney-Vento eligible students, as a result of the hurricane, may hinder the opportunity to receive additional funds, should they become available. TEA has published [additional guidance on the coding](#).

Help Shape TASB's Advocacy Agenda

Regional [Grassroots Meetings](#) begin in December, and dates for each meeting are posted [online](#). These important meetings give school leaders an opportunity to identify the issues for which TASB should be advocating during the next legislative session. There is no charge for attending, and a meal is provided.

In addition to identifying legislative priorities for their region, attendees will elect representatives to the Legislative Advisory Council (LAC). The LAC meets in the spring and again in June to study the results of the regional meetings and develop a set of Advocacy Priorities with a statewide impact. Learn more about the [meetings](#), and review the [schedule](#) to find your region's meeting date.

Note: TASB Grassroots Survey Still Live

TASB has distributed a survey to help determine issues that may be addressed at TASB's Grassroots Meetings. The regional priorities developed at these meetings will help shape TASB's Advocacy Agenda leading up to the 86th Legislative Session. If you are a trustee or superintendent and have not received the e-mail containing the survey link, please contact [Dax González](#), TASB Governmental Relations.

Board Member Training Rules

Last session, a bill was passed that requires biennial training for all trustees on the board's role in maximizing student outcomes. SB 1566 requires the commissioner of education to create a research-based evaluation tool that school boards may use for self-evaluation and to make student performance dashboards available for a school board upon request. Among other things, the bill also authorizes the commissioner to require school boards to attend mandated training as part of conditional Improvement Required plan approval.

On November 8, the State Board of Education's (SBOE) Committee on School Improvement Initiatives discussed rulemaking drafted by TEA. TASB staff provided input and expressed interest in retaining flexibility at the local district level.

SBOE members stressed the importance of TEA collaborating with TASB on draft rulemaking and the design and delivery of the training. SBOE rulemaking on SB 1566 is scheduled to be completed in April 2018. This law requires that trustees meet the new training requirement by September 1, 2018.

Phillips Joins TASB Board

Nicholas Phillips of Nederland ISD was elected by the TASB Board to fill the

interim position in Region 5. A Leadership TASB graduate and master trustee, he has served on his local board for seven years and held the positions of board secretary, vice-president, and president. Phillips, who is an associate principal at West Brook High School in Beaumont ISD, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Lamar University.

XG Board Development Update

Since April, several school districts across the state have been using a new [research-based approach to school governance](#) that focuses the board, and the intentions of the board, on student achievement.

Recently, the [Lockhart ISD Board and superintendent](#) were recognized as the first “board-superintendent team” in Texas to complete the new eXceptional Governance (XG)[™] Board Development Training. The program, developed and facilitated by TASB, promotes the idea that exceptional governance makes a significant difference in student outcomes.

Plans are underway for the next XG Summit, a two-day event that will highlight promising practices and current research on the relationship of school boards and student performance. The summit will be held January 10–11, 2019, in Austin.

Garcia Nominated for NSBA Officer Position

TASB Past President Viola Garcia has been nominated for the position of secretary-treasurer on the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Board of Directors. Currently NSBA's Southern Region director and president of the Aldine ISD Board, Garcia has served her local district since 1992 and held all four board offices. A graduate of Leadership TASB and master trustee, Garcia is a member of the Mexican-American School Board Members Association and has served as that group's president. She was nominated to the national position by the TASB Executive Committee on behalf of the TASB Board.

Superintendent Salary Survey Highlights

[Results of a recent survey](#) of district trends in superintendents' salaries and benefits was released by TASB HR Services. For the 2017–18 school year, nearly two-thirds of Texas districts provided a base salary increase to their continuing superintendent. The average pay increase in 2017–18 for continuing superintendents was 2.9 percent. Down from a 3.2 percent increase in 2016–17, pay raises have remained around 3 percent for the past five years. Other highlights include:

- The average superintendent salary in Texas for 2017–18 is \$146,073. There has been a steady increase in base salaries, rising 2.8 percent in 2017–18 and 1.9 percent in 2016–17. Half of reported superintendent salaries in Texas are less than \$125,000 (median).
- Examining superintendent pay increases in relation to TEA-defined district community types, superintendents in nonmetropolitan, fast-growing districts experienced the highest average increase (3.9 percent). Superintendents in rural districts, which comprise 40 percent of survey respondents, received a 2.6 percent average pay raise. Major urban districts gave their superintendents a 1.3 percent average pay increase.
- In districts with fewer than 500 students, the average superintendent salary is \$96,119, up from \$94,920 last year. These districts account for one-quarter of survey participants. In the largest Texas districts—those with more than 50,000 students—average base pay is \$320,532, up from \$308,184, a 4 percent increase.
- Analyzing superintendent salaries by community type, average base pay in rural districts is \$101,227, up from \$99,164 last year. TEA classifies 459 of some 1,000 public school districts in Texas as rural. Superintendent salaries average \$314,366 in major urban districts.

Helping Kids Soar to Success

School Board Recognition Month (SBRM) was initiated by TASB to help Texas districts and communities express their appreciation to those who serve on local boards. Each fall, TASB provides a resource kit to help districts recognize their local trustees during the month of January. A secondary purpose for the month-long celebration is to share information with communities about the appropriate

role of school board members and the value of board service in the overall life and health of the community.

The [2018 kit](#), centered on the theme of “Soar to Success,” is full of ideas for honoring board members and letting the community know of their many contributions. Certificates and tips for activities were mailed directly to districts in mid-October. Artwork, a sample news release, and other documents that can be customized are posted online, and districts are encouraged to use the logo on the front page of their websites in January. Additional information can be found on the TASB website at sbrm.tasb.org.

Convention Moves to Austin in 2018

Planning is already well underway for the [2018 TASA/TASB Convention](#), September 28–30, in Austin. For six out of the next eight years, the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and TASB have committed to hosting Convention in Dallas. Austin has submitted proposals for 2022 and 2024, and staff is working with San Antonio to obtain proposals for those same years.

NSBA Advocacy Institute

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) will host its [Advocacy Institute](#) February 4–6. The premier conference for federal school board advocacy will take place at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC. Participants will develop a keen understanding of why effective advocacy requires strong collaboration across policy, media, and judicial spectrums. The keynote speaker will be renowned political commentator Cokie Roberts. Sunday and Monday will consist of general and breakout training sessions, while attendees will travel to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to visit with legislators.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Training in 2018
Winter Legal Seminars, February 13 in Tyler and February 20 in El Paso

TASB Legal Services attorneys will be [on the road in February](#) and will also make a presentation at the [Winter Governance and Legal Seminar](#) in Galveston in March. Topics include role of the individual board member, bullying and hazing, preventing sexual abuse of public school students, school district websites and online data, and legislative and legal updates.

***TASB Conference for Administrative Professionals,
February 21–23, Austin***

Held twice a year, this [annual conference](#) offers comprehensive training at TASB Headquarters. General sessions focus on topics of interest to all, and smaller breakout sessions cover a wide variety of issues. Last October, the early-bird session was attended by almost half of the attendees. The three-hour session focuses on “the basics” of elections, policy, school HR, BoardBook®, and school finance.

***Winter Governance and Legal Seminar, March 1–3,
Galveston***

The [2018 Winter Governance and Legal Seminar](#) is set for March at the Galveston Island Convention Center. Thursday’s general session speaker, Will Richardson, is an author, educator, and reform leader who will pose the question “Why School?” On Saturday, Laredo native Consuelo Kickbusch, a veteran, speaker, and author, will address how leaders make a difference in the lives of young people. She will also present an in-depth session on Friday afternoon.

The move to Galveston provides better meeting space in state-of-the-art waterfront facilities, as well as more convenient and comfortable hotel options while maintaining the same feel that attendees have come to expect.

NSBA Annual Conference, April 7–9, San Antonio

The [NSBA Annual Conference and Exposition](#) is the one national event that brings together education leaders at a time when domestic policies and global trends are combining to shape the future of our students. The event offers more than 250 educational programs, including three inspirational general sessions that will give attendees new ideas and tools to help drive their districts forward. An early registration discount is available through January 10.

In Other Action, the Board Approved:

- Minutes for the October 5, 2017, TASB Board Meeting
- Minutes for the October 7, 2017, Delegate Assembly
- 2016–17 Financial Statement and Audit
- Changes to Board policies affecting LAC members on the TASB Legislative Committee
- Changes to Board policy on the NSBA Stipend Program
- Executive director compensation and 2018 employment agreement

The next meeting of the TASB Board of Directors is March 24 at TASB Headquarters in Austin.

Editor: [Barbara Williams](#)

TASB Communications