



2016 TASB Nominations Committee Report

The Delegate Assembly is charged with the responsibility of electing TASB Directors and Officers, subject to TASB Bylaws, Articles VI and VII.

Nominees

Nominees for Officers

(Nominated by TASB Board)

President-Elect

Teresa Flores

Ingleside ISD, regional member

Second Vice-President

Lee Lentz-Edwards

Kermit ISD, regional member

First Vice-President

James de Garavilla

Silsbee ISD, regional member

Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Rice

Fort Bend ISD, large district member

Nominees for TASB Board of Directors

(Nominated by Nominations Committee)

EXPIRING TERMS (regional members for election to three-year terms, 2016–19):

TASB Region 1, Position B

Esperanza “Espie” Ochoa

La Joya ISD, regional member

TASB Region 10, Position B

Ty G. Jones

Lancaster ISD, regional member

TASB Region 6

Jason Dohnalik

Cameron ISD, regional member

TASB Region 11, Position A

Bobby J. Rigues

Aledo ISD, regional member

TASB Region 7

Ted Beard

Longview ISD, regional member

TASB Region 16

Cindy Spanel

*Highland Park ISD-Potter County, regional member****

TASB Region 9

Lanny Evans

*Henrietta ISD, regional member****

TASB Region 20, Position D

Robert Westbrook

*Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD, regional member****

FOR ELECTION TO A TWO-YEAR TERM (2016–18) FILLING VACANCY:

TASB Region 4, Position A

Georgan Reitmeier

*Klein ISD, regional member****

FOR ELECTION TO A ONE-YEAR TERM (2016–17) FILLING VACANCY:

TASB Region 20, Position A

Rolinda Schmidt

Kerrville ISD, regional member

Directors elected by action of the regions

ELECTED TO THREE-YEAR TERMS (2016–19) FILLING EXPIRED TERMS:

TASB Region 2
Teresa Flores
*Ingleside ISD, regional member**

TASB Region 10, Position C
Dan Micciche
*Dallas ISD, large district member***

TASB Region 4, Position E
Henry Dibrell
*Katy ISD, large district member***

TASB Region 13, Position A
Jayne Mathias
*Austin ISD, large district member***

President and president-elect

At the close of the TASA/TASB Convention, **Charles R. Stafford** (*Denton ISD*) will assume the office of President by virtue of his election as President-Elect by the 2015 Delegate Assembly. **Bret Begert** (*Fort Elliott CISD*) will become Immediate Past President.

Additional Candidate

Candidate who received more than 25 percent of endorsements in her region and therefore is on the ballot by action of the region.

TASB Region 1, Position B
Yolanda Cuellar
*South Texas ISD, regional member****

Members of the Nominations Committee are pleased to place in nomination the names of the above individuals. Each nominee has agreed to serve, if elected. The members of the Committee believe that this is a representative and competent group of individuals worthy of the support of the membership.



Andra Self, TASB Immediate Past President and Chair

*The following were elected by receiving endorsements from a majority of the Active Members in the regions, pursuant to the TASB Bylaws: [Article VI, Section 2D(5)] “If a majority of the Active Members in an Association Region endorses the same candidate, that candidate shall be elected to the Director position and shall take office at the completion of the final official session of the annual convention during the year in which the Director was elected.”

**The Bylaws also state: [Article VI, Section 2C] “For the purposes of this section, an Active Member school district with an Average Daily Attendance (ADA) meeting the requirements of Article VI, Section 4C(1), shall be treated as an Association Region and referred to in these Bylaws as a Large District.”

***Received endorsements from 25 percent or more of the Active Members in the region.

Biographical Information

OFFICERS

Bret Begert

Immediate Past President, one-year term, 2016–17

Begert was first elected to the Allison ISD Board in 1998, where he served as board secretary and president. In 2003, the district consolidated with Fort Elliott, and Begert moved to the new board. He currently serves as Fort Elliott CISD board president.

A graduate of West Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree, Begert is past president of the Panhandle Area Association of School Boards, where he remains an active member and strong supporter of the Region 16 ESC. He also serves as president of the North American Limousin Foundation and is past president of the Texas Limousin Association. In addition, he serves as lay leader of the United Methodist Church in Allison and is involved in many other church and civic organizations.

Begert is a partner in Begert Limousin Ranch, Inc., a family operation raising black, polled Limousin cattle, and the managing partner of B&H Disposal Systems, LLC.

Charles R. Stafford

President, one-year term, 2016–17

Stafford has been on the Denton ISD Board for 15 years and has held positions of vice-president and secretary four times. He served as president in 1993–94, 2007–09, and 2013–14.

Stafford studied in the Plan II Honors program at The University of Texas at Austin and continued his education with accounting classes at the University of North Texas. He is a self-employed real estate broker and developer with Keller Williams Realty.

Stafford's activities include participation in the Kiwanis Club and Greater Denton-Wise Association of Realtors®, chair of the Advisory Council for the Children's Advocacy Center of Denton County, chair of the Denton Central Appraisal District, member of the Advisory Board for the College of Public Affairs and Community Services at the University of North Texas, co-chair of the Capital Campaign for College of

PACS, board member of the Animal Shelter Foundation, and board member of the Denton Chamber of Commerce.

Teresa Flores

*President-Elect, one-year term, 2016–17
Region 2, three-year term, 2016–19*

Flores has served on the Ingleside ISD Board since 1999 and has held the positions of secretary, president, and Delegate to the TASB Delegate Assembly. She was elected to the TASB Board of Directors for Region 2 in 2006. For more than 20 years, Flores has served as a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch.

After graduating from Ingleside High School, she attended Del Mar College. She currently participates in local school events and has a special interest in legislative activity involving education. Most recently, she was asked to participate on the District 32 State Representative's Educational Advisory Committee.

Past civic involvement includes president of the high school band booster organization, director for the Corpus Christi Harbor Playhouse, member of the Corpus Christi Symphony Community Outreach Committee, chair of the scholarship committee for the Del Mar College Foundation, and treasurer and player agent of the Ingleside Little League, serving more than 450 children and their parents.

James de Garavilla

First Vice-President, one-year term, 2016–17

De Garavilla has represented Region 5 on the TASB Board since 2009, serving on each of the board's standing committees. He also served on the Special Committee on School Finance and chaired the Legislative Committee during the 83rd Legislative Session, which saw the passage of HB 5.

He was elected to the Silsbee ISD Board in 2006 and completed the Leadership TASB and Leadership Southeast Texas programs. He also has been active in the grassroots advocacy process and served on the TASB Legislative Advisory Council. De Garavilla has served in various leadership roles at Silsbee ISD,

including chairing its Budget and Finance Committee and an ad-hoc committee on board operating procedures.

Professionally, de Garavilla is currently a senior polymer research engineer at DuPont and holds several patents in his field. Throughout his 33-year career with DuPont, he has held a variety of technical, managerial, business, and marketing roles.

Lee Lentz-Edwards

Second Vice-President, one-year term, 2016–17

Lentz-Edwards is serving her 11th year on the Kermit ISD Board of Trustees. She is currently in her second term as president, having served previously as secretary. She is a graduate of Sul Ross State University with a bachelor of business administration and masters of education and business administration.

She has worked in the field of education for many years, and most recently, she is a special education coordinator. Lentz-Edwards has been active in her community, having served as a leader in both Girl Scouts and 4-H, a Sunday school teacher and superintendent at her church, and a member of the Kermit Rotary Club, where she held officer positions as secretary and president. She has been honored

DIRECTORS

Esperanza “Espie” Ochoa

Region 1, Position B, three-year term, 2016–19

Ochoa joined the La Joya ISD Board in 2007 and has served as vice-president twice and president once. She has spent more than 13 years supporting public education, including working as a classroom educator, reading technical assistance and statewide coordinator, and English language arts coordinator. She is currently the educational manager for the Children’s Learning Institute, working with the Texas Literacy Initiative. She is also a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Ochoa obtained a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies with a minor in bilingual education from The University of Texas-Pan American and a master’s degree in education and leadership.

as a Woman of Distinction by the Permian Basin Girl Scout Association, an Outstanding Adult 4-H Leader District VI, and Kermit Woman of the Year.

Jim Rice

Secretary-Treasurer, one-year term, 2016–17

Rice was elected to the Fort Bend ISD Board in May 2010. During the past six years, he has served as board secretary, president, and, currently, Audit Committee chair. Elected to the TASB Board of Directors in 2012, he chaired the Legislative Committee during the 84th Legislative Session and served on the Nominations and Planning and Development committees. He is a 2014 graduate of Leadership TASB.

Rice is president of Rice & Gardner Consultants, an engineering and construction management firm. In addition to his professional duties, he currently serves as the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce’s Education Division chair and is a 2005 graduate of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Forum Class.

Rice has also served on the Fort Bend Literacy Council Board of Directors and the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors and is a co-founder of Fort Bend Cares, a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Georgan Reitmeier

Region 4, Position A, two-year term, 2016–18

In 2005, Reitmeier was elected to the Klein ISD Board of Trustees. She has been involved with the district for 30 years, serving more than 15 years as a parent volunteer and 15 years as an employee with the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Keep Pace program. She retired as the director of the ECI Keep Pace program for the Harris County Department of Education.

She is the immediate past president of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards and serves on the Lone Star Investment Pool Board of Trustees. Reitmeier is a graduate of Leadership TASB and a Master Trustee.

As a volunteer, she served as the district coordinator of volunteers and president of two booster clubs at Klein Forest High School.

Reitmeier currently volunteers as a mentor at McDougle Elementary. She earned both a master of science and a bachelor of science in education from Oklahoma State University.

Henry Dibrell

Region 4, Position E, three-year term, 2016–19

Dibrell currently serves as sergeant-at-arms for the Katy ISD Board. He joined the board in 2011 and has held the positions of vice-president, treasurer, and secretary.

Dedicated to education and his community, he is a graduate of Leadership TASB and a current fellow with the Center for Reform of School Systems. He also invests time volunteering with the Katy High School Band Booster Club and mentoring and coaching flag football athletes. He is the owner of Campaign Crate, a dynamic political consulting firm that creates a one-stop shop for candidate campaign needs.

Dibrell is a licensed minister who holds a bachelor of science in marketing from Northwestern State University. He is also a member of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, where he received the Dean Nicolus Award, and serves on the board of the Katy Pachyderm Club.

Jason Dohnalik

Region 6, three-year term, 2016–19

Dohnalik has resided in Cameron for the past 40 years and was elected to the Cameron ISD Board of Trustees in 2007. He also serves on the Cameron Industrial Foundation Board and is the chair of the city council planning and zoning committee.

After graduating from CH Yoe High School in 1990, Dohnalik attended postsecondary school at Texas State Technical College in Waco and Texas A&M University in College Station. He is a current partner and general manager of EBCO Development, Inc., a general contracting company based in Cameron.

Ted Beard

Region 7, three-year term, 2016–19

Beard was elected to the Longview ISD Board in 1998 and has served in various capacities, including assistant secretary, vice-president, and president.

Beard earned a bachelor's degree in human services from Letourneau University and now

works as a claims representative and an equal employment opportunity counselor for the Social Security Administration. He is a retired sergeant major from the United States Army and a combat veteran of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

Beard was appointed to the TASB Risk Management Fund Board in November 2007 and currently serves as chair. He is also a member of Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

Lanny Evans

Region 9, three-year term, 2016–19

Evans has served his community for more than 20 years as a board member for Henrietta ISD. He has held every leadership position for this board at least four times, including president, vice-president, secretary, and assistant secretary. Previously, he has served on the TASB Legislative Advisory Council as a representative for Region 9.

He earned a master's in business administration from Wayland Baptist University. Currently, Evans is an information services manager for United Regional Health Care System. He has also worked as an adjunct professor for Vernon College's Wichita Falls campus, teaching an introduction to computers course.

Additionally, he has served as a part-time and reserve peace officer for more than 30 years and holds a Texas Master Peace Officers license and a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement instructor's license. His civic involvement includes being a charter member of the United Regional Toastmasters Program.

Ty G. Jones

Region 10, Position B, three-year term, 2016–19

Since 2012, Jones has served as president for the Lancaster ISD Board, a position he has held for four of the five years he has been a trustee. He has also served as his board's alternate for the TASB Delegate Assembly and is a 2014 graduate of Leadership TASB. Additionally, he serves as the secretary of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members and a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

Jones has held careers within the education and financial services fields for more than 20 years. As an educator, he has served in positions ranging from a classroom teacher to K–12 coordinator of mathematics to coordinator of

instructional management system. He hosts the *Say it Loud!!—Showcasing Public Education District by District* radio broadcast, which gives school districts an opportunity to share student success stories. He is the vice-president for a tax preparation and tax-planning firm.

Dan Micciche

Region 10, Position C, three-year term, 2016–19

Micciche was elected to the Dallas ISD Board in 2012. He is a strong supporter of the district's early childhood education program, career and technical education, and collegiate academy programs.

Micciche is a lawyer at the firm of Akin, Gump. He has been recognized by *D Magazine* as one of the "Best Lawyers in Dallas" and by *Texas Monthly* as a "Super Lawyer." He started and chaired his firm's school partnership program with James W. Fannin Elementary School in Dallas. The program won the State Board of Education's highest award for community partnerships in 2011.

He received his undergraduate degree from Stony Brook University in New York and his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Micciche also currently serves on the board of directors of the Dallas Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Bobby J. Rigues

Region 11, Position A, three-year term, 2016–19

Since 2004, Rigues has served on the Aledo ISD Board, holding both president and vice-president positions. He is a 2009 Leadership TASB graduate and recipient of the 2010 LTASB Alumni Leadership Award. In 2011, Rigues was named TSPRA's 2011 Key Communicator.

His past and current advocacy services include time as a director for the North Texas Area Association of School Boards, a judge for the *American School Board Journal's* Magna Awards, and a regular attendee of the Advocacy Institute.

In 2011, his statewide grassroots initiative Make Education a Priority gained local and national attention for its public education advocacy efforts. In 2016, he assisted in the creation of the public education nonprofit Make Education a Priority, Inc., where he currently serves as the CEO.

Rigues earned his bachelor of science degree from Tarleton State University. He has been an agent for State Farm Insurance since 1988.

Jayme Mathias

Region 13, Position A, three-year term, 2016–19

Mathias was elected to the Austin ISD Board of Trustees in November 2012 and was elected secretary in November 2012 and January 2015. A product of and firm believer in public education, he earned two undergraduate degrees, four graduate degrees, and a doctorate in philosophy.

Mathias is a certified instructor of secondary foreign languages and has taught all levels of high school Spanish and graduate and doctoral levels. Mathias presently serves as pastor of Holy Family American Catholic Church in South Austin.

Mathias' passion for education spurred him to co-found three learning centers in East Austin. He has been active in various neighborhood associations and on numerous boards, presently serving on the Blackland Community Development Corporation, New Journalism Project, Child-Friendly Faith Project, St. John XXIII Theological Institute, and TEXTESOL.

A member of the Leadership TASB Class of 2015, Mathias has participated in the Texas Institute for School Boards and has twice represented Austin ISD at the annual Delegate Assembly.

Cindy Spanel

Region 16, three-year term, 2016–19

Spanel has been on the Highland Park ISD-Potter County Board since 2004, serving as secretary for four years and currently as vice-president. A graduate of Leadership TASB in 2010, she also is a member and secretary of the Potter/Randall County Appraisal Board and Panhandle Area Association of School Boards. In addition, she served as a board member and secretary of the Amarillo Highland Park Education Foundation.

Currently semiretired, Spanel is a veteran of the US Navy. She served 1974–77, with an honorable discharge, disabled veteran. Spanel graduated from Amarillo College with an associate's degree in applied science-business administration.

Rolinda Schmidt

Region 20, Position A, one-year term, 2016–17

Schmidt has served on the Kerrville ISD Board since 1996, where she has served as board president, vice-president, and, currently, secretary.

A graduate of San Jose State University with a bachelor's degree in social services, Schmidt is actively involved in local youth education programs, including the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, Rotary Club Foreign Exchange Student program, Head Start, and the Kerrville ISD 6th grade outdoor education program. Schmidt was named Families and Literacy's 2014 Champion of Education.

Schmidt is a managing partner in her family-owned and family-operated commercial real estate development and management company. She is actively involved in St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Kerrville and area civic and charitable organizations.

Robert M. Westbrook

Region 20, Position D, three-year term, 2016–19

Westbrook has served on the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD Board for four years. He has held several leadership positions, including assistant secretary, secretary, and vice-president. In addition, he is a 2013 Leadership TASB graduate.

Currently, he is a battalion chief with the San Antonio Fire Department. He holds numerous certifications, including paramedic, instructor, hazardous materials technician, fire inspector, and wild-land firefighter. He gives back to the community by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and regularly donating blood.

He holds a bachelor of arts degree in biology and a master's of business administration. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Urban Management Assistants of South Texas.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATE**Yolanda Cuellar**

Region 1, Position B, three-year term, 2016–19

Cuellar has been a member of the South Texas ISD Board since 2008, including serving as the Policy and Curriculum Committee chair. She has more than 30 years of experience in education as a classroom teacher and a campus and district administrator.

A graduate of Texas A&M University-Kingsville with a bachelor of science in elementary education, she also has a master's of education in reading and an administrative certificate for principals at all levels from The University of Texas-Pan American.

Her community involvement includes serving as a University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Science board member, Weslaco Chamber of Commerce Leadership Mid Valley program participant, and Weslaco Museum board member. Cuellar is a Leadership TASB Master Trustee.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met September 9–10, 2016, to interview candidates and review nominations for Director positions under consideration at this year’s Delegate Assembly. The Committee is made up of 11 members, including the President, and nine alternates to serve in a designated order. The members of the Nominations Committee, elected at the September 2015 meeting of the TASB Board, are as follows:

Andra Self, chair

*TASB Immediate Past
President, Lufkin ISD*

Bret Begert, vice-chair

*TASB President
Fort Elliott CISD*

Debbie Gillespie

Frisco ISD

Maria G. Leal

South Texas ISD

Lee Lentz-Edwards

Kermit ISD

Benny May

Barbers Hill ISD

Raymond P. Meza

San Felipe Del Rio CISD

Rhonda Skillern-Jones

Houston ISD

Greg Welch

Clyde CISD

Vacancy

Vacancy

Rose Avalos

Alternate, Aldine ISD

Ann Calahan

Alternate, Stephenville ISD

James de Garavilla

Alternate, Silsbee ISD

Don Gant

Alternate, DeSoto ISD

Sandy Hughey

Alternate, North East ISD

Christene Moss

Alternate, Fort Worth ISD

Vernagene Mott

Alternate, Pflugerville ISD

Mildred Watkins

Alternate, La Vega ISD

Vacancy

Charles R. Stafford,

*nonvoting ex officio
TASB President-Elect,
Denton ISD*