



2018 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

Lee Lentz-Edwards

Kermit ISD, regional member

First Vice-President

Jim Rice

Fort Bend ISD, large district member

Second Vice-President

Ted Beard

Longview ISD, regional member

Secretary-Treasurer

Charles Cunningham

Humble ISD, regional member

Nominees for TASB Board of Directors

(Nominated by Nominations Committee)

EXPIRING TERMS (regional members for election to three-year terms, 2018–21):

TASB Region 1, Position A

Patricia O’Caña-Olivarez

*Mission CISD, regional member****

TASB Region 3

Demetrio Garcia

Kenedy ISD–Karnes County, regional member

TASB Region 4, Position A

Georgan Reitmeier

*Klein ISD, regional member****

TASB Region 4, Position C

Tony Hopkins

*Friendswood ISD, regional member****

TASB Region 5

Nicholas Phillips

*Nederland ISD, regional member****

TASB Region 10, Position A

Debbie Gillespie

Frisco ISD, regional member

TASB Region 11, Position D

Corinne French

Valley View ISD–Cooke County, regional member

TASB Region 12

Mildred Watkins

La Vega ISD, regional member

Region 13, Position C

Vernagene Mott

*Pflugerville ISD, regional member****

TASB Region 17

Kay Alley

*Crosbyton CISD, regional member****

TASB Region 18

Lee Lentz-Edwards

Kermit ISD, regional member

FOR ELECTION TO A TWO-YEAR TERM (2018–20) FILLING VACANCY:

TASB Region 10, Position D

Kevin Carbo

Mesquite ISD, regional member

Directors elected by action of the regions

ELECTED TO THREE-YEAR TERMS (2018–21) FILLING EXPIRED TERMS:

TASB Region 4, Position F

Bob Covey

*Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, large district member***

TASB Region 19

Armando Rodriguez

*Canutillo ISD, regional member**

TASB Region 20, Position E

Sandy Hughey

*North East ISD, large district member***

President and president-elect

At the close of the TASA/TASB Convention, **James de Garavilla** (*Silsbee ISD*) will assume the office of President by virtue of his election as President-Elect by the 2017 Delegate Assembly. **Teresa Flores** (*Ingleside ISD*) will become Immediate Past President.

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.



Charles R. Stafford, 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

Teresa Flores

Immediate Past President, one-year term, 2018–19

Flores has served on the Ingleside ISD Board since 1999 and has held the positions of secretary, vice-president, president, and Delegate to the TASB Delegate Assembly. She was elected to the TASB Board of Directors for Region 2 in 2006 and has served on each of the standing committees. She served as TASB President for the 2017–18 term. For more than 20 years, Flores has worked as a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch.

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

Aside from TASB and her local school board, Flores also currently serves on the Ingleside ISD Educational Foundation and the Ingleside Economic Development Corporation. 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.

James “Jim” de Garavilla

President, one-year term, 2018–19

De Garavilla has served as a trustee on the Silsbee ISD Board since 2006, including various leadership roles from committee chairs to board president. He is an alum of Leadership TASB (2008) and Leadership Southeast Texas (2009).

Since the fall of 2009, de Garavilla has represented Region 5 on the TASB Board of Directors and has served on each of the Board’s standing committees. He chaired the Legislative Committee during both the 83rd and 85th Texas Legislative Sessions. Prior to joining the TASB Board, he was active in the grassroots advocacy process and served on the TASB Legislative Advisory Council as a regional representative.

Professionally, de Garavilla is currently a principal investigator at DowDuPont and holds several patents in his field of ethylene copolymers. Throughout a 35-year career with DuPont, he has held a variety of technical, managerial, business, and marketing roles. De Garavilla is native of Massachusetts, a product a public schools, and a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston.

Lee Lentz-Edwards

*President-Elect, one-year term, 2018–19
Region 18, three-year term, 2018–21*

Lentz-Edwards is serving her 13th year on the Kermit ISD Board of Trustees. A 2013 Leadership TASB graduate, she is currently in her fourth term as president, having served previously as secretary for several years. She is a graduate of Sul Ross State University with a bachelor of business administration, master of education, and master of business administration.

She has worked in the field of education for many years. Currently, she is a special education coordinator at the Region 18 Education Service Center. Lentz-Edwards has been active in her community, having served as a leader in both Girl Scouts and 4-H, a Sunday school teacher at her church, and a member of the Kermit Rotary Club, where she held officer positions as secretary and president. She has been honored 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

First Vice-President, one-year term, 2018–19

Rice was elected to the Fort Bend ISD Board in May 2010. He was elected board secretary in June 2011 and board president in 2012, serving two consecutive terms in that office. 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 and Gardner Consultants, Inc., 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 vice-chair and is a 2005 graduate of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Forum Class.

He is also very involved in numerous civic organizations for Fort Bend, including the Fort Bend Literacy Council, Fort Bend P16 Regional Council, and Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. Rice is co-founder of the charity Fort Bend Cares, which benefits underprivileged youth in the community.

Ted Beard

Second Vice-President, one-year term, 2018–19

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.

DIRECTORS

Patricia O'Caña-Olivarez

Region 1, Position A, three-year term, 2018–21

For 10 years, O'Caña-Olivarez has served on the Mission CISD Board of Trustees. She has served the board in various roles, including president, vice-president, and secretary. In addition, she has chaired the Finance, Insurance, and Facilities committees.

A native of Mission, she is a proud product of Mission CISD schools. She continued her education at St. Mary's School of Law and received a doctor of jurisprudence. After graduating from St. Mary's, she returned to her hometown to serve her community as an attorney and counselor at law and as a civil and family mediator. She also is an alternate municipal court judge for the City of Alton.

O'Caña-Olivarez is a member of Our Lady of

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.

Charles Cunningham

Secretary-Treasurer, one-year term, 2018–19

Since 2007, Cunningham has served on the Humble ISD Board of Trustees. He is chairman of the board's Audit Committee and a member of the Finance, Building and Planning, and Legislative committees. He also serves as the board's representative to the Humble ISD Education Foundation Board.

A graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University, Cunningham is a key accounts consultant for CenterPoint Energy.

He is a current director and the past president of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards. He has served on his homeowner's association as president and vice-president and on the Humble Chamber of Commerce as vice-chair of governmental affairs.

Guadalupe Catholic Church, where she is a Eucharistic minister, and the Mission Sunset Lion's Club. Previously, she served on the board of the Silver Ribbon Community Partners, which aids the local adult protective services program. She is a founding member of the Education Foundation of Mission CISD, which provides grants and scholarships to students and district employees.

Demetrio Garcia

Region 3, three-year term, 2018–21

Garcia is now in his eighth year as a trustee on the Kenedy ISD-Karnes County Board. He currently serves as the president.

He is an administrative specialist for the Region 20 Education Service Center (ESC) in San Antonio. After serving the education profession for 11 years as a school principal, Garcia joined

the ESC 20 family as part of the Leadership Development team in November 2016. As an administrative specialist, he provides professional development to district and campus leaders and administrators across the Region 20 area.

He received a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies, a master of education in administration and supervision, and principal and superintendent certifications from the University of Houston-Victoria.

Georgan Reitmeier

Region 4, Position A, three-year term, 2018–21

In 2005, Reitmeier was elected to the Klein ISD Board of Trustees. She has been involved with the district for more than 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 past president of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards and a member of the steering committee for the Go Public Gulf Coast. Reitmeier is a graduate of Leadership TASB and 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.

Tony Hopkins

Region 4, Position C, three-year term, 2018–21

Hopkins has served on the Friendswood ISD Board for more 10 years and currently is vice-president. He is a Leadership TASB graduate and Master Trustee.

Hopkins is a member of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards and is 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 a master's degree at Rice University.

Bob Covey

Region 4, Position F, three-year term, 2018–21

Covey has served on his local board, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, for 13 years and held the positions of president, vice-president, and secretary. A Leadership TASB graduate and Master Trustee, he is a director of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards, has presented at the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference, and has attended the NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference. He also has presented at the TASA/TASB Convention and TASB Winter Governance and Legal Seminar.

Active at the local level, he is a member of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce and has participated in the district's athletic and chorale booster clubs, bus buddy program, and Read Across America initiatives. Each semester for the past 12 years, he has lectured about school board governance to junior education majors at the Texas State University (TxSU) College of Education. Covey is founder and president of Go Public Gulf Coast and is active in Impact with the Harris County Department of Education.

Covey earned his bachelor's degree at TxSU and has held numerous leadership positions with the university's alumni association. He retired from American Alloy Steel, Inc., after serving 35 years with the company. His retirement was short-lived when American Alloy Steel asked him to reactivate his role as vice-president of sales; he resumed his position seven years ago.

Nicholas Phillips

Region 5, three-year term, 2018–21

Phillips has served on the Nederland ISD school board for more than eight years. He has held several leadership positions, including board secretary, vice-president, and president. In addition, he is a Leadership TASB graduate and Master Trustee.

Phillips is the associate principal at West Brook High School in Beaumont ISD. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Lamar University.

Debbie Gillespie

Region 10, Position A, three-year term, 2018–21

Gillespie has been on the Frisco ISD Board since 2011 and is the board secretary. With a degree from Southwest Texas State University, Gillespie worked in interior design and fashion merchandising before accepting a job at Dell Corporation, where she worked in customer service, configuration management, and policy and procedures. Upon moving to Frisco with her family in 1995, she became a stay-at-home mom and an active community volunteer.

Among various community activities, Gillespie has held the following positions: PTA board officer, 2001–09; PTO board member and board officer, 2005–07; PTO board president, 2007–10; National Charity League, 2005–12; National Charity League board officer, 2008–12; Young Men’s Service League, 2010–14; Young Men’s Service League board officer, 2011–13; Frisco Family Services Center volunteer and two-year board member; Frisco High School band booster officer, 2007–13; neighborhood association village representative for 17 years; Frisco ISD Council of PTAs board member, 2012–present; and now an active volunteer with Frisco FastPacs.

She is a Leadership TASB graduate, Class of 2014, and member of the LTASB Alumni Association.

Kevin Carbo

Region 10, Position D, two-year term, 2018–20

Carbo was elected to the Mesquite ISD (MISD) Board in 1996 and served continuously until 2014. He was reelected to the board in November 2015. He is currently the board secretary.

Carbo’s involvement with MISD began in the 1980s as a PTA member. He was also first vice-president of the Mesquite Council of PTAs.

A 1998 graduate of Leadership TASB, he is a member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials and the National Hispanic Council of School Board Members. He served on the TASB Risk Management Fund Board for 12 years, including five years as chair.

He graduated from Colegio San Antonio in Puerto Rico. Carbo earned his bachelor of science in finance from Dallas Baptist University

in 1995 and received his master of business administration from the University of Dallas in 1999. He is employed by the City of Dallas in the Aviation Department as a business operations analyst.

Corinne French

Region 11, Position D, three-year term, 2018–21

French was appointed to the Valley View ISD-Cooke County Board in 2012, elected in 2013, and ran unopposed in 2016. She currently serves as the board vice-president. She is a 2015 Leadership TASB graduate and has served as a member of the TASB Legislative Advisory Council.

French received a bachelor of science degree in family sciences from Texas Woman’s University and a master’s in higher education from the University of North Texas (UNT).

She works at UNT, coordinating district involvement with the Eagle Advantage program. She plans on-campus transition programs for high school juniors and seniors and facilitates college transition workshops in local high schools. She serves as the advisor for the student organization Her Campus UNT. French also serves on the NTRP-16 Council and the executive board of the North Texas Area Association of School Boards.

Mildred Watkins

Region 12, three-year term, 2018–21

Watkins has served on the La Vega ISD Board for 22 years. She is currently the board’s assistant secretary and has previously served as secretary, vice-president, and president.

Watkins is a teacher at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, where she also served as a principal. She has held the positions of teacher and principal for Waco ISD and was a teacher for Teague ISD.

She has bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees from Paul Quinn College, a master of education from Prairie View A&M, and a special education certification from Baylor University. She is a member of the Texas Elementary School Principals Association, AKA Sorority, and the Union Baptist District Association Usher Board.

Vernagene Mott

Region 13, Position C, three-year term, 2018–21

Mott was elected to the Pflugerville Board of Trustees in 2004 and is currently in her fourth term as president.

Born and raised in Pflugerville, Mott is a proud graduate of Pflugerville High School, where she earned the distinction of class valedictorian. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree with honors in math from The University of Texas and was a math and science teacher for 35 years. Mott was a member of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association from 1964 through 2003.

Mott is a charter member and founder of the Pflugerville Education Foundation. She also is a charter member of Pflugerville's Heritage House Museum and a local historian, having coauthored five published books.

In other civic involvement, Mott is on the Baylor Scott and White Hospital Development Board and has served on the Manville Water Supply Company Board of Directors. She is an active member of her church. The Greater Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce recognized Mott with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kay Alley

Region 17, three-year term, 2018–21

Alley has been on the Crosbyton CISD board since 1997, having served as president and secretary and currently as vice-president. She is a Master Trustee and has served as an officer on the board of directors for the South Plains Association of School Boards for many years.

Alley holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Dallas Baptist College. She has worked in numerous clinics and hospitals in Texas and taught vocational nursing at McLennan Community College in Waco.

For 20 years, she has served on the Crosby County Appraisal District Board, with roles as secretary and treasurer for the first five years and now as vice-chair. She is a member of the Lubbock, Garza, and Crosby County Medical Auxiliary.

Armando Rodriguez

Region 19, three-year term, 2018–21

Rodriguez is serving his fourth term on the Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees, where he has served as secretary, vice-president, and president. A Canutillo High School graduate, Rodriguez has attended board meetings since the eighth grade. He was elected to the Board in 2005 at the age of 20—the youngest person to win elective office in El Paso County. He is recognized among school trustees in the region as an advocate for education and educators.

He is involved with a variety of education and community boards in Texas and nationally, including the Mexican American School Boards Association, where he serves as past president; the National School Boards Association Hispanic Council of School Board Members, where he represents the southern region; the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials; and the Far West Texas School Boards Association, where he is a former president.

A graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso, Rodriguez is the business development manager of Hellas Construction, Inc.

Sandy Hughey

Region 20, Position E, three-year term, 2018–21

A trustee since May 2000, Hughey is the secretary of the North East ISD Board. During her tenure on the board, she has served as president and vice-president.

Hughey attended Lee High School in Houston and Sam Houston State University. She serves her community as a director on the North East Educational Foundation, secretary/treasurer of the Bexar County Coalition of School Boards, and member of the steering committee for Go Public.

She is a Life Member of the Texas PTA and received the Extended Service Award. Hughey also is a proud 2002 graduate of Leadership TASB and Master Trustee.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met September 7–8, 2018, 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 2017 meeting of the TASB Board, are as follows:

Charles R. Stafford, chair
*TASB Immediate Past
President, Denton ISD*

Teresa Flores, vice-chair
*TASB President
Ingleside ISD*

Rose Avalos
Aldine ISD

Charles Cunningham
Humble ISD

Thomas Darden
Cooper ISD

Jason Dohnalik
Cameron ISD

Linda Gooch
Sunnyvale ISD

Raymond P. Meza
San Felipe Del Rio CISD

Christene Moss
Fort Worth ISD

Rolinda Schmidt
Kerrville ISD

Cindy Spanel
*Highland Park ISD-Potter
County*

Rhonda Skillern-Jones
Alternate, Houston ISD

Greg Welch
Alternate, Clyde CISD

Karen Freeman
*Alternate, Northside ISD-
Bexar County*

Lanny Evans
Alternate, Henrietta ISD

Jayme Mathias
Alternate, Austin ISD

Dan Micciche
Alternate, Dallas ISD

Bobby J Rigues
Alternate, Aledo ISD

Will Streit
Alternate, Leander ISD

James de Garavilla,
*nonvoting ex officio,
TASB President-Elect,
Silsbee ISD*