



# 2019 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, Amended September 19)*

After receiving notification that Second Vice-President nominee Charles Cunningham (Humble ISD) resigned from the TASB Board of Directors, the TASB Board took action during its meeting Thursday, September 19, to select an alternate nominee for the position of Second Vice-President. The Board voted to move Secretary-Treasurer nominee Debbie Gillespie (Frisco ISD) to Second Vice-President nominee. The Board then voted to name Bob Covey (Cypress-Fairbanks ISD) as Secretary-Treasurer nominee.

**President-Elect****Jim Rice***Fort Bend ISD, large district member***First Vice-President****Ted Beard***Longview ISD, regional member***Second Vice-President****~~Charles Cunningham~~***Humble ISD, regional member***Debbie Gillespie***Frisco ISD, regional member***Secretary-Treasurer****~~Debbie Gillespie~~***Frisco ISD, regional member***Bob Covey***Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, large district member*

### Nominees for TASB Board of Directors

*(Nominated by Nominations Committee)*

**EXPIRING TERMS** (regional members for election to three-year terms, 2019–22):

**TASB Region 2****Moises Alfaro\*\*\****Mathis ISD, regional member***TASB Region 6****Jason Dohnalik***Cameron ISD, regional member***TASB Region 7****Ted Beard\*\*\****Longview ISD, regional member***TASB Region 9****Mark Lukert\*\*\****Wichita Falls ISD, regional member***TASB Region 10, Position B****Linda Gooch***Sunnyvale ISD, regional member***TASB Region 11, Position A****Becky St. John***Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, regional member***TASB Region 16****Cindy Spanel***Highland Park ISD–Potter County, regional member***Region 20, Position D****Robert Westbrook\*\*\****Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD, regional member*

**FOR ELECTION TO A TWO-YEAR TERM (2019–21) FILLING VACANCY:**

**TASB Region 18**  
**Steve Brown**  
*Ector County ISD, regional member*

**FOR ELECTION TO A ONE-YEAR TERM (2019–20) FILLING VACANCY:**

**TASB Region 13, Position B**  
**Mary Jane Hetrick**  
*Dripping Springs ISD, regional member*

**Directors Elected by Action of the Regions**

**ELECTED TO THREE-YEAR TERMS (2019–22) FILLING EXPIRED TERMS:**

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

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

**TASB Region 4, Position E**  
**Bill Lacy**  
*Katy ISD, large district member\*\**

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

**ELECTED TO ONE-YEAR TERM (2019–20) FILLING VACANCY:**

**TASB Region 11, Position B**  
**Jacinto Ramos Jr.**  
*Fort Worth ISD, large district member\*\**

**President and President-Elect**

At the close of the TASA | TASB Convention, **Lee Lentz-Edwards** (*Kermit ISD*) will assume the office of President by virtue of her election as President-Elect by the 2018 Delegate Assembly. **James de Garavilla** (*Silsbee ISD*) will become Immediate Past President.

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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.



Teresa Flores, TASB Immediate Past President and Chair

\*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

### **James “Jim” de Garavilla**

*Immediate Past President, one-year term, 2019–20*

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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, he 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 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 a native of Massachusetts, a product of public schools, and a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston.

### **Lee Lentz-Edwards**

*President, one-year term, 2019–20*

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Lentz-Edwards is serving her 14th year on the Kermit ISD Board of Trustees. A 2013 Leadership TASB graduate, she is currently in her fifth term as president of her local board, 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 a long tenure in the field of education. 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 the officer positions of secretary and president. She has been honored

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

### **Jim Rice**

*President-Elect, one-year term, 2019–20*

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Rice joined 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 recent 86th legislative session and during the 84th session. He also has 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 also is very involved in numerous civic organizations for Fort Bend, including Fort Bend Cares, the Fort Bend Literacy Council, the Fort Bend P16 Regional Council, and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. Rice is cofounder of the charity Fort Bend Cares, which benefits underprivileged youth in the community.

### **Ted Beard**

*First Vice-President, one-year term, 2019–20  
Region 7, three-year term, 2019–22*

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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 a 2012 graduate of Leadership TASB and a member of Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

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### **Debbie Gillespie**

*Second Vice-President, one-year term, 2019–20*

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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, PTO board member and officer, National Charity League board officer, Young Men's Service League board officer, Frisco Family Services Center volunteer and two-year board member, Frisco High School band booster officer, neighborhood association village representative, Frisco ISD Council of PTAs board member, and active volunteer with Frisco FastPacs.

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

## **DIRECTORS**

### **Yolanda Cuellar**

*Region 1, Position B, three-year term, 2019–22*

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Cuellar has been a member of the South Texas ISD Board since 2008 and is currently board vice-president. 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 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

### **Bob Covey**

*Secretary-Treasurer, one-year term, 2019–20*

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Covey has served on his local board, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, for 14 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.

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 14 years, he has lectured about school board governance to junior education majors at the Texas State University College of Education. Covey is founder and president of Go Public Gulf Coast. He also is active in Impact with the Harris County Department of Education and serves as a director for the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards. He has been an active member of Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church for more than 30 years.

Covey earned his bachelor's degree at Texas State 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.

Chamber of Commerce Leadership Mid Valley program participant, and Weslaco Museum board member. Cuellar is a Leadership TASB Master Trustee.

### **Moises Alfaro**

*Region 2, three-year term, 2019–22*

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Alfaro is a trustee for Mathis ISD in his second term on the board. He is a former educator, having taught in Pasadena ISD and served as a teacher, assistant principal, associate principal, and principal in Mathis ISD. He was named the 2011 Assistant/Associate Principal of the Year for Region 2 by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Currently, he works as a health, safety, and

environmental manager for Wood Group PSN, an oil field maintenance and construction company. Alfaro works part-time for the Education Service Center Region 2 as a field supervisor for the Crossroads adult education program.

Alfaro earned a bachelor of arts in biology from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's in educational administration and doctorate in educational leadership from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

### **Bill Lacy**

*Region 4, Position E, three-year term, 2019–22*

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A Katy resident for 21 years, Lacy joined the Katy ISD Board of Trustees in 2017. He is currently vice-president of the board.

He is a senior loan officer in the mortgage banking profession. He has a degree in business administration from Louisiana Tech University.

Lacy is involved in numerous community organizations and has coordinated charity golf tournaments. Lacy is active in the Katy Business Association, Katy Visual and Performing Arts, and Katy Athletic Booster Club. He also volunteers with Katy Christian Ministries and the Candlelighters Organization and rides with the Patriot Guard Motorcycle Club. Lacy is an active member of Westland Baptist Church, where he has served on the board, led Sunday school classes for both adults and children, and served as an AWANA leader.

### **Jason Dohnalik**

*Region 6, three-year term, 2019–22*

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Dohnalik has resided in Cameron for the past 44 years and was elected to the Cameron ISD Board of Trustees in 2007. He has represented Region 6 on the TASB Board since 2015.

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 currently a partner and general manager of EBCO Development, Inc., a general contracting company based in Cameron, where he has been employed for the past 23 years.

He has served as chair of the city council planning and zoning commission, a board member of the Cameron Industrial Foundation, and on several other community organizations.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends and hobbies, such as hunting, golfing, and umpiring high school baseball.

### **Mark Lukert**

*Region 9, three-year term, 2019–22*

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Lukert, who joined the Wichita Falls ISD Board in 2018, has been an educator for more than 40 years. He spent 21 years as an elementary school principal.

Currently, he is a national trainer, speaker, and leadership coach for the John Maxwell Team. He also presents keynote addresses for various organizations and conducts teambuilding workshops across the state and nation.

During his education tenure, Lukert served on the executive board and as president of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. He also was president for the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading and the Texas representative for the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Lukert is a PTA Life Member.

### **Linda Gooch**

*Region 10, Position B, three-year term, 2019–22*

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Gooch is vice-president of the Sunnyvale ISD (SISD) Board of Trustees. She has held this position since 2002. She has served on the Sunnyvale board for 22 years.

As a Region 10 TASB Director, she has served on the TASB Legislative Committee and as vice-chair of the Bylaws Committee. She also has represented her local board on the TASB Legislative Advisory Council and at the National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute. She is a member of the School Board Advocacy Network and Federal Relations Network.

Gooch, an assistant vice-president for Morgan Stanley, has been honored with the United States Presidential Volunteer Service award and received the Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree, the highest degree of honorary membership awarded by Texas FFA Association.

Locally, she has been active in the Sunnyvale Education Foundation and the Sunnyvale PTA. She was a nine-year volunteer coach for one of Sunnyvale's award-winning Destination Imagination teams. Gooch currently works with the SISD Alumni Association and is a lifetime member of the Raider Pride Booster Club.

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**Dan Micciche**

*Region 10, Position C, three-year term, 2019–22*

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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 Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. 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 currently serves on the boards of the Dallas Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Center for Vision Loss of the American Foundation for the Blind.

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**Becky St. John**

*Region 11, Position A, three-year term, 2019–22*

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In her 10th year on the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Board, St. John has held officer roles twice, serving as secretary and vice-president.

She has been the Region 11 representative for the TASB Legislative Advisory Council (LAC) since 2011 and has served three terms as a LAC representative on the TASB Legislative Committee. St. John has twice attended the National School Boards Association Advocacy Institute.

St. John obtained a bachelor of arts degree in history and English from Stephen F. Austin University. She works as an assistant housing coordinator for the Grapevine Housing Authority.

St. John also is active in her community, serving on Keep Grapevine Beautiful, the Grapevine Chamber of Commerce, the Grapevine Planning and Zoning Commission, the Roanoke Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Roanoke Economic Development Board. She was a Roanoke City Council member and at one point served as mayor pro tem.

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**Jacinto Ramos Jr.**

*Region 11, Position B, one-year term, 2019–20*

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Ramos is president of the Fort Worth ISD Board, having served on the board for six years. He is the president-elect of the Mexican American School Boards Association and the chair of the National School Boards Association Council of Urban Boards of Education.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Jacinto has devoted his time to providing a voice to disengaged and disenfranchised youth. He is a certified multicultural trainer for the Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County, a probation officer for the state of Texas, and an affiliate of Courageous Conversations about Race. In addition, he is a member of the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, and the Center for Reform of School Systems. He also is part of the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color, where he is the only Texas school board member on the advisory team.

Ramos has a degree in criminal justice and criminology from The University of Texas at Arlington and a master's in family studies from Amberton University. He is currently working on his doctorate in educational leadership and administration.

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**Jayme Mathias**

*Region 13, Position A, three-year term, 2019–22*

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Mathias was elected to the Austin ISD Board of Trustees in November 2012. 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 cofound three learning centers in East Austin. He has been active in various neighborhood associations and on numerous boards, presently serving on the New Journalism Project, Blackland Community Development Corporation, Child-Friendly Faith Project, St. John XXIII Theological Institute, and TEXTESOL.

Since 2017, Mathias has served as executive director of the Mexican American School Boards Association and as a steering committee member of the National School Boards Association Council of Urban Boards of Education.

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### **Mary Jane Hetrick**

*Region 13, Position B, one-year term, 2019–20*

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Hetrick is in her second term on the Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees. She is a 2017 Leadership TASB graduate and Master Trustee.

She received a bachelor's in business administration from The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA, now UT-Rio Grande Valley). She continued her education at Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), earning a master of public administration and certificate in nonprofit management, and then earning a doctorate in public administration and public policy from Auburn University.

Hetrick's professional experience includes working as the women's sports information director for UTPA, scholarship coordinator for The University of Texas at Brownsville, and an adjunct professor for AUM and TROY University. In 2014, she founded Foundation Logic, LLC, a nonprofit consulting business.

Active in her community, Hetrick has served on the Dripping Springs Education Foundation Board, the Foster Village Board, building and visioning committees for her church, and a grassroots committee with a mission to build a new veterans hall in the greater Dripping Springs area.

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### **Cindy Spanel**

*Region 16, three-year term, 2019–22*

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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 2010 graduate of Leadership TASB, she also is a member and officer 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. She

graduated from Amarillo College with an associate's degree in applied science-business administration.

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### **Steve Brown**

*Region 18, two-year term, 2019–21*

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A native of Odessa, Steve Brown dedicated 35 years to Ector County ISD (ECISD) as a teacher and administrator. After retiring from the district in 2011, Brown decided to continue serving the district by running for the ECISD Board of Trustees. He is currently in his second term as a trustee.

He completed the Leadership TASB program and is a Master Trustee. Brown has been actively involved in education and community organizations, including the United Way of Odessa, West Texas Educators Credit Union, Texas Association of Secondary Principals, Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin Head Start, and Medical Center Hospital Advisory Board.

He received his doctorate in education administration, master of education in guidance and counseling, and bachelor's in political science from Texas Tech University. He also earned a master of education in education administration from Sul Ross State University.

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### **Robert Westbrook**

*Region 20, Position D, three-year term, 2019–22*

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Westbrook was elected to the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD Board in May 2011 and is currently serving as board president.

He is a graduate of Churchill High School, the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, and Texas State University. He also attended the US Military Academy for his first two years of college. He earned a master of business administration degree from Webster University.

Professionally, he is a fire chief with the San Antonio Fire Department. He holds certifications as a paramedic, hazardous materials technician, wild-land firefighter, and fire science instructor. Additionally, he has completed the City of San Antonio Leadership Development Program.

He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Urban Management Assistants of South Texas. He also has served as secretary of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

## Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met September 6–7, 2019, 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 up to nine alternates to serve in a designated order. The members of the Nominations Committee, elected at the September 2018 meeting of the TASB Board, are as follows:

**Teresa Flores, chair**  
*TASB Immediate Past  
President, Ingleside ISD*

**James de Garavilla, vice-  
chair**  
*TASB President  
Silsbee ISD*

**Kay Alley**  
*Crosbyton CISD*

**Bob Covey**  
*Cypress-Fairbanks ISD*

**Thomas Darden**  
*Cooper ISD*

**Karen Freeman**  
*Northside ISD-Bexar  
County*

**Debbie Gillespie**  
*Frisco ISD*

**Raymond P. Meza**  
*San Felipe Del Rio CISD*

**Armando Rodriguez**  
*Canutillo ISD*

**Rhonda Skillern-Jones**  
*Houston ISD*

**Greg Welch**  
*Clyde CISD*

**Sandy Hughey**  
*Alternate, North East ISD*

**Vernagene Mott**  
*Alternate, Pflugerville ISD*

**Rolinda Schmidt**  
*Alternate, Kerrville ISD*

**Mildred Watkins**  
*Alternate, La Vega ISD*

**Georgan Reitmeier**  
*Alternate, Klein ISD*

**Rose Avalos**  
*Alternate, Aldine ISD*

**Patricia O’Cana-Olivarez**  
*Alternate, Mission CISD*

**Nicholas Phillips**  
*Alternate, Nederland ISD*

**Lee Lentz-Edwards,**  
*nonvoting ex officio,  
TASB President-Elect,  
Kermit ISD*