



2020 TASB Nominations Committee Report

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

Nominees

Nominees for Officers

(Nominated by the TASB Board as recommended by the Nominations Committee)

President-Elect

Ted Beard

Longview ISD, regional member

Second Vice-President

Bob Covey

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, large district member

First Vice-President

Debbie Gillespie

Frisco ISD, regional member

Secretary-Treasurer

Armando Rodriguez

Canutillo ISD, regional member

Nominees for TASB Board of Directors

(Nominated by the Nominations Committee)

REGIONAL POSITIONS WITH EXPIRING TERMS (For election to three-year terms, 2020–23):

TASB Region 4, Position B

Page Rander**

Clear Creek ISD, regional member

TASB Region 13, Position B

Mary Jane Hetrick**

Dripping Springs ISD, regional member

TASB Region 8

Thomas Darden**

Cooper ISD, regional member

TASB Region 14

Greg Welch

Clyde CISD, regional member

TASB Region 10, Position D

Kevin Carbó

Mesquite ISD, regional member

TASB Region 15

Raymond P. Meza

San Felipe Del Rio CISD, regional member

TASB Region 11, Position C

Justin Chapa

Arlington ISD, regional member

TASB Region 20, Position A

Rolinda Schmidt

Kerrville ISD, regional member

LARGE DISTRICT POSITIONS (Elected by their district)

Elected to Three-Year Terms (2020–23) Filling Expiring Terms:

TASB Region 4, Position D

Anne Sung

*Houston ISD, large district member**

TASB Region 11, Position B

Jacinto “Cinto” Ramos Jr.

*Fort Worth ISD, large district member**

TASB Region 4, Position H

Rose Avalos

*Aldine ISD, large district member**

TASB Region 20, Position B

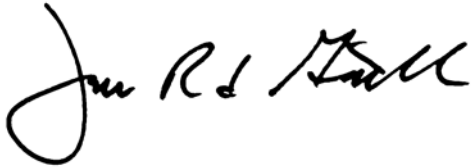
Karen Freeman

*Northside ISD-Bexar County, large district member**

President and President-Elect

At the close of the TASA | TASB Convention, **Jim Rice** (*Fort Bend ISD*) will assume the office of President by virtue of his election as President-Elect by the 2019 Delegate Assembly. **Lee Lentz-Edwards** (*Kermit ISD*) will become Immediate Past President.

Members of the Nominations Committee are pleased to recommend the individuals listed above. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James de Garavilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

James de Garavilla, TASB Immediate Past President and Chair

*The Bylaws state in 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 (but less than a majority) of the Active Members in the region.**

The Bylaws also state in Article VI, Section 2D(5), that a candidate receiving endorsements from a majority of the Active Members within the candidate’s region is deemed elected. None of the above candidates received a majority.

Biographical Information

OFFICERS

Lee Lentz-Edwards

Immediate Past President, one-year term, 2020–21

Lentz-Edwards has been serving on the Kermit ISD Board of Trustees for 15 years. A 2013 Leadership TASB graduate, she is currently in her fifth term as president of her local board.

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 coordinator of special populations 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, one-year term, 2020–21

Rice joined the Fort Bend ISD Board in May 2010, where he has served as both board president and secretary. He currently chairs the Board's Audit Committee.

Elected to the TASB Board of Directors in 2012, he chaired the Legislative Committee during the 84th and 86th legislative sessions. He is a 2013 graduate of Leadership TASB.

Rice is the founder and 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 cofounder of the charity Fort Bend Cares, which benefits underprivileged youth in the community.

Rice is involved in numerous other civic organizations, including the Fort Bend Literacy Council, the Fort Bend P-16 Regional Council, and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council.

Ted Beard

President-Elect, one-year term, 2020–21

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

He earned a bachelor's in human services from LeTourneau University and now works as a technical expert and equal employment opportunity counselor for the Social Security Administration. Beard is a retired sergeant major from the United States Army and a combat veteran of Desert Shield/Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

He was appointed to the TASB Risk Management Fund Board in 2007 and currently serves as chair. He is a 2012 graduate of Leadership TASB as well as a past president and current member of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

Debbie Gillespie

First Vice-President, one-year term, 2020–21

Gillespie was first elected to the Frisco ISD Board in 2011 and was elected to the TASB Board in 2014.

After graduating from Southwest Texas State University, she 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 an active community volunteer.

Gillespie was a longtime volunteer with Frisco Family Services and Starwood Neighborhood Association. She served and held various officer level positions in the following organizations: Frisco ISD Council of PTAs, multiple local PTA boards, PTO board, Frisco High School Band Boosters, National Charity League (NCL), and the Young Men's Service League (YMSL). NCL

and YMSL gave her the opportunity to serve organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Shoes for Orphan Souls, Operation Kindness, Susan G. Komen, Prison Ministries, Hope's Door, North Texas Food Pantry, and Frisco Miracle League.

She is currently an active volunteer with Frisco Fastpacs and Frisco Women's League, as well as a vocal advocate in legislative agendas for several local organizations. However, Gillespie is most passionate about advocating for public education for all students in Texas. She is a 2014 graduate of Leadership TASB (LTASB), a member of the LTASB Alumni Association, and an Honorary Life Member of PTA.

Bob Covey

Second Vice-President, one-year term, 2020–21

Covey has served on his local board, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, for more than 15 years and has held the positions of president, vice-president, and secretary. A Leadership TASB graduate and Master Trustee, he is an active member and former director of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards.

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 15 years, Covey 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 Christ the Redeemer Catholic

Church, where he has been a member for more than 30 years.

Covey earned his bachelor's degree at Texas State University and has held numerous leadership positions with the university's alumni association. He retired from American Alloy Steel, Inc., after 35 years. His retirement was short-lived when the company asked him to reactivate his role; he resumed working in sales eight years ago.

Armando Rodriguez

Secretary-Treasurer, one-year term, 2020–21

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, he 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 an elected office in El Paso County. Rodriguez 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 served as president; the National Hispanic Council of School Board Members, currently serving as chair; 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.

DIRECTORS

Page Rander

Region 4, Position B, three-year term, 2020–23

Rander has served on the Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustees for nine years. She has held various leadership roles on her local board, including president.

She is actively involved in advocacy for public education at the local, state, and federal levels. She has served as a regional representative on the TASB Legislative Advisory Council (LAC) and was elected as one of four LAC representatives

sitting on the TASB Legislative Committee. A Leadership TASB graduate and Master Trustee, Rander is a member of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members and volunteers with the Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families.

Rander has spent most of her professional career as a civil servant and is currently a human resources manager for a Harris County department. She earned her bachelor of science degree in communications from Syracuse University and master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Anne Sung

Region 4, Position D, three-year term, 2020–23

Sung joined the Houston ISD Board of Education in January 2017. During her time on the board, she has worked to strengthen college and career readiness standards, wraparound services, special education, and the district's audit department.

Sung trained as a physicist at Harvard University, earning a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics and master's degrees in physics and public policy. She fell in love with teaching as a young Teach for America corps member in the Rio Grande Valley. She returned to her hometown of Houston to teach at Lee (now Wisdom) High School, where she served as chair of the science department and was the 2011 Teacher of the Year.

She co-founded Community Voices for Public Education to give Houston students, parents, educators, and community members a greater voice in public education. Sung was a founding board member of New Leaders Council–Houston. She is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow and serves on the board of the Organization of Chinese Americans–Greater Houston.

Sung previously served as chief strategy officer at Project GRAD Houston, an educational nonprofit that partners with schools, cities, colleges, and businesses to help students develop and achieve their college and career goals.

Rose Avalos

Region 4, Position H, three-year term, 2020–23

Avalos is vice-president of the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees, where she has served for 14 years.

She holds a bachelor of arts degree and a master's in education from Sam Houston State University. Avalos began her educational career in 1972 as a teacher in Aldine ISD and remained with the district for 33 years. During her tenure, she also served as a counselor, program director, assistant principal, and principal at Escamilla Intermediate School. In 1994, she returned to her alma mater and served as MacArthur Senior High's principal for 11 years before retiring in 2005. She was named the district's Principal of the Year in 2002 and 2003.

Avalos currently serves as an educational consultant for the Region 4 Education Service

Center. She also is a member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, the Mexican American School Boards Association, and the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

Thomas Darden

Region 8, three-year term, 2020–23

Darden has served on the Cooper ISD Board of Trustees for more than 18 years and has been board president since 2002. Active in the grassroots advocacy process, he served as a TASB Legislative Advisory Council representative.

He is a 2007 graduate of Leadership TASB. In addition, he has served in leadership roles for the Northeast Texas School Boards Association and currently is a board member for the Delta County Appraisal District. Darden also has been active in his community, serving the Friends of Doctors Creek Park and Delta County youth baseball association.

Darden holds a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University and a master of science in electrical engineering from The University of Texas at Arlington. He is a systems engineering manager for L3 Harris, where he has worked for more than 35 years.

Kevin Carbó

Region 10, Position D, three-year term, 2020–23

Carbó was elected to the Mesquite ISD Board in 1996 and has served in the roles of president, vice-president, and secretary. He served on the board 18 consecutive years until he decided to step down in 2014. He ran again in 2015 to fill a vacant position.

Carbó began serving Mesquite students as a PTA leader in the 1980s. A 1998 graduate of Leadership TASB, he has presided over several boards, including the TASB Risk Management Fund Board and the National Hispanic Council of School Board Members, which is a council of the National School Boards Association (NSBA). He also has served as a director for the NSBA Board and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials.

He graduated from Colegio San Antonio in Puerto Rico. Carbó earned his bachelor of science in finance from Dallas Baptist University and received his master of business administration from the University of Dallas. He is employed by the City of Dallas as a manager for Dallas Love Field Airport.

Jacinto “Cinto” Ramos Jr.

Region 11, Position B, three-year term, 2020–23

Ramos is president of the Fort Worth ISD Board, having served for seven years. He is the 2020–21 president 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, Ramos has devoted his time to providing a voice to disengaged and disenfranchised youth. He works as the chief of governance and leadership at Leadership ISD, a nonprofit that equips community leaders to advance racial equity and academic excellence in public education.

In addition, he is a member of the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, and a fellow of 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 degree from Amberton University. He is on track to complete his doctorate in educational leadership and administration.

Justin Chapa

Region 11, Position C, three-year term, 2020–23

An Arlington native, Chapa joined the Arlington ISD Board of Trustees in 2017. Before joining the board, he served on the district’s Financial Futures and Citizens Bond Oversight committees. Chapa also served on the Capital Needs Steering Committee that helped craft the 2014 bond package.

He spent his undergraduate years at Harvard University, earning a bachelor’s in government. Upon graduating, he joined Teach for America and taught 12th grade government and economics classes at Rivera High School in Brownsville.

After completing his teaching commitment, he pursued his juris doctorate at Stanford Law School. He was part of the first cohort of Stanford’s joint degree program in education and law, earning a master of arts in education concurrently with his law degree. Currently, he is

of counsel in the Dallas office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.

Chapa cofounded a scholarship program for graduating seniors at his alma mater, Sam Houston High School. The program has awarded more than \$35,000 in scholarships since 2007. He currently serves on the board and executive committee for United Way Tarrant County and previously served on the boards of the Arlington Public Library Foundation and Leadership Arlington.

Mary Jane Hetrick

Region 13, Position B, three-year term, 2020–23

Hetrick is in her sixth year 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, research assistant for AUM, 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 was recently honored by the local Chamber of Commerce with the Hometown Hero award. She has served on the Dripping Springs Education Foundation Board, the Foster Village Board, and building and visioning committees for her church and is a founding board member of Patriots’ Hall for veterans in the greater Dripping Springs area.

Greg Welch

Region 14, three-year term, 2020–23

Welch has been on the Clyde CISD Board for 22 years and currently serves as president.

He attended Angelo State University and went on to work as a machinist and production manager at Froman Manufacturing. He currently works as a manufacturing production manager

for Ludlum Measurement, Inc., where he has been employed since 2002.

Welch is the secretary of the Callahan County Appraisal District Board and has served on that board for 18 years. He also has been active on the boards of multiple youth sports organizations.

Raymond P. Meza

Region 15, three-year term, 2020–23

Meza has served on the San Felipe Del Rio CISD Board of Trustees since 2007 and is currently the board president. He is a 2012 Leadership TASB graduate and Master Trustee.

Meza attended Sul Ross University, earning a bachelor of science and master's in secondary education. He has certifications in bilingual, early childhood, and mid-management in school administration. A retired educator, his experience includes serving as a kindergarten teacher, a sixth-grade teacher, and a middle school principal.

He also has served the community as past president of the Lion's Club, president of the local United Way, elected member of the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Board of Directors, and vice-president of the appraisal board. Meza is currently a director of the Mexican American School Boards Association.

Rolinda Schmidt

Region 20, Position A, three-year term, 2020–23

Schmidt has served on the Kerrville ISD Board since 1996 and has held the positions of board president and vice-president. She is currently the board secretary.

A graduate of San Jose State University with a bachelor's in social services, Schmidt is a managing partner in her family-owned-and-operated commercial real estate development and management company.

Before serving as a trustee, she was involved in campus PTOs and was a board member and volunteer for the Kerrville Public School Foundation. 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 sixth-grade outdoor education program. She was named Families and Literacy's 2014 Champion of Education.

Karen Freeman

Region 20, Position B, three-year term, 2020–23

Freeman was elected to the Northside ISD (NISD) Board of Trustees in 2005 and was reelected for her fourth term in May 2017. She currently serves as vice-president of the board, chair of the Academics Committee, and a member of the Building, Finance, Technology, and Policy and Intergovernmental Relations committees.

Freeman earned a bachelor of science degree in clinical laboratory medical technology at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Prior to board service, Freeman served on the district's School Advisory Teams, the first NISD School Boundary Advisory Committee, NISD Strategic Plan committees, three NISD Bond committees, and the NISD Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee. She has also held numerous PTA and Booster Organization positions in NISD schools and is an Honorary Life Member of the Texas PTA.

She is a member of the Bexar County School Boards Coalition and serves on the board of directors of the Helotes Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a Master Trustee and 2009 graduate of Leadership TASB.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met September 11–12, 2020, 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 2019 meeting of the TASB Board, are as follows:

James de Garavilla, chair
*TASB Immediate Past
President, Silsbee ISD*

**Lee Lentz-Edwards, vice-
chair**
*TASB President
Kermit ISD*

Kay Alley
Crosbyton CISD

Jason Dohnalik
Cameron ISD

Debbie Gillespie
Frisco ISD

Jayne Mathias
Austin ISD

Patricia O’Caña-Olivarez
Mission CISD

Georgan Reitmeier
Klein ISD

Armando Rodriguez
Canutillo ISD

Mildred Watkins
La Vega ISD

Robert Westbrook
*Schertz-Cibolo-Universal
City ISD*

Sandy Hughey
Alternate, North East ISD

Dan Micciche
Alternate, Dallas ISD

Moises Alfaro
Alternate, Mathis ISD

Vernagene Mott
Alternate, Pflugerville ISD

Bob Covey
*Alternate, Cypress-
Fairbanks ISD*

Yolanda Cuellar
Alternate, South Texas ISD

Nick Phillips
Alternate, Nederland ISD

Cindy Spanel
*Alternate, Highland Park
ISD-Potter County*

Linda Gooch
Alternate, Sunnyvale ISD

**Jim Rice, nonvoting ex
officio, TASB President-
Elect, Fort Bend ISD**