



# TASB BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

TODAY'S DATE: 5/12/20\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Clifton Fendley\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: Paris\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ RESIDENCE PHONE: n/a\_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

We communicate with our Board members primarily via e-mail and the Internet. Please list your preferred active email address.

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DISTRICT: Paris ISD\_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL TERM EXPIRES: 05/23\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS ON BOARD: 4  
(Month/year)

Upon expiration of current term on your local board, will you seek reelection?

Yes\_ x\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

BOARD POSITIONS HELD/DATES: Served on several committees for the district, but have not been one of the three officers (Pres, VP or Secretary)

OCCUPATION: Insurance Agency Owner\_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT EMPLOYER: Self: Pierson & Fendley Insurance \_\_\_ Dates: 06/01/1999- Present \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION-HIGH SCHOOL: Paris High School \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE: Texas A&M Commerce \_

OTHER EDUCATION: Multiple years of Spanish Language instruction in Oaxaca, Mexico

DEGREES: BA English \_\_\_\_\_

HOBBIES/SPECIAL INTERESTS: Golf, any sport that my children are involved in, running sideline chains for home games at Paris High, Travel \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL/CIVIC GROUP MEMBERS (Offices held and dates):

- Leadership Lamar County- 1999- 2000
- Rotary Club: 2000-2012
- Lamar County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador 2000-2005
- City of Paris- Historic Preservation Commission- Advisory Board Member
- Paris Living- Community Development Corp- Board President from 2001- present
- Leadership Paris ISD Program- 2007
- Boys & Girls Club of the Red River Valley: joined board in 2010. Executive Board 2016-present (Board VP, 2016; Board President 2017-2018, Immediate Past President 2018-Present)
- Boy Scouts of America- Troup Leader
- North East Texas Community Development Corporation board of directors 2017- present
- Paris Planning and Zoning Commissioner 2019-Present
- Leadership TASB 2019-2020

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use reverse side if additional space is required.): I would consider myself to be fairly civically involved; however, a large portion of that involvement revolves around the betterment of a child's life and outlook. For example, the primary reason that I joined the Paris Living board (a CDC that focuses on housing and specifically down payment assistance for first time home buyers) was because of a study 2001 Harvard study that I read. That study "observed that children of homeowners have better home environments, high cognitive test scores, and fewer behavior problems than do children of renters." While I did not and do not have the financial means to buy everyone with children a home, I knew that I could help impact a least a few- so why wouldn't I do it? Much of my other involvement does not need any other explanation- it clearly is there for the betterment of children (Boys & Girls Club, Scouting, etc.). Thus, when I was made aware of a vacancy on an unexpired term on PISD's board, I immediately threw my name into the hat.

It is probably worth noting that my mother served on the PISD board from the 90's until about 2005. Because of that, I knew the level of commitment that would be required and joined the board with "open eyes". I expected that I would enjoy getting a look behind the curtain of school governance and felt that I could bring some important aspects from my professional life to the table. What I was unprepared for was how much joy I would be given by observing the countless acts that our school administrators and educators perform on a daily basis without any expectation of praise or accolade. It was this that made me want to get even more involved if possible. Through conversations with multiple people, I was made aware of the LTASB program.... WHAT A GAME CHANGER!!

Although I knew that I would greatly enjoy being part of the Leadership TASB class, I do not know that I anticipated the depth of my enjoyment. It has allowed me to experience and observe so many different aspects of education: from the full language immersion classes to the intake classes for children of refugees. I am sure that some of my fellow board members dread the meeting after a LTASB session as I return with new ideas about how this district implemented a "clear backpack" policy and how that district has ingrained the idea of social-emotional learning.

It is these experiences that have led me to want to serve on the TASB board. I want to be able to give back to an organization that has opened my eyes to aspects I had never even dreamt of before, and I want to be able to continue to positively impact the lives of children. I am sure that most of you have heard the parable of the young boy that walked the beach throwing starfish back into the ocean. When what difference he could make since there was only one of him and thousands of starfish; he simply picked up another one, gently threw it into the water and said, "I made a difference to that one!" I both aspire to both be that boy and encourage others to emulate him!

***Please attach a short bio and include a current picture in jpeg format.***

Additional Comments: (Use reverse side if additional space is required.)

## **Clifton Fendley**

Paris ISD Board of Trustee - Place 2

Term expires 5/23



Mr. Fendley was elected in 2016. Clifton graduated from Paris High in 1991 and graduated from TAMU-Commerce with a BA in English. Clifton is a partner in the insurance firm, Pierson & Fendley. He and his wife Melissa have two children in the PISD system, Emma and Curt. He is currently on the board of The Boys & Girls Club and has served numerous other civic boards and organizations.