



TASB BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

DATE: May 25, 2022

NAME: Sylvia Sánchez Garza

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

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

BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ RESIDENCE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT: South Texas ISD

LOCAL TERM EXPIRES: November 2024 YEARS ON BOARD: 14  
(Month/year)

Upon expiration of current term on your local board, will you seek reelection?  
YES  NO

BOARD POSITIONS HELD (including dates): Secretary, November 2020

OCCUPATION: Co-owner BIC Development (Family business), Author/Speaker

CURRENT EMPLOYER: BIC Dev, Author DATES: BIC 1991 – present/ Author – 2016 – present

EDUCATION-HIGH SCHOOL: Weslaco High School COLLEGE: Pan American University, Lamar University, Our Lady of the Lake University, & National University

OTHER EDUCATION: Teacher Certifications, TASB Leadership Class of 2012, TASB Continuing Education Courses, Board Training, Educational Workshops, Writing Workshops and Seminars

DEGREES: B.A. English, M.A. Ed Leadership, M.F.A. Creative Writing, Ph.D. Leadership Studies

HOBBIES/SPECIAL INTERESTS: Reading, writing, volunteering, playing with my grandbabies & dogs, dancing, karaoke, enjoying nature, & Animal Crossing

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL/CIVIC GROUP MEMBERS (offices held including dates): South Texas I.S.D. School Board- 14 years, South Texas I.S.D. School Board Secretary, 2020 – present, Texas Association of School Boards, National School Board Association, Mexican American School Board Association, National Hispanic Council of School Board Members, National Hispanic Council Director of Southern Region, Museum of South Texas History, Chair, 2020 – present, Vice-Chair, 2019, STISD Education Foundation, 2004 – present, Texas Authors member, Writer’s League of Texas member, South Texas Literacy Coalition member, Discovery School Board past board president, American Cancer Society steering committee, Discovery 4-H Manager, Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Library Committee, TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture Jury

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: My parents instilled in me a love of learning. They made me realize that one’s background should never be a barrier to obtaining educational goals or success. These past few years have been challenging for everyone. Personally, I lost both my parents. I plan to carry on their legacy as best I can by serving our students and community. Like my parents, I believe education empowers and positively impacts everyone’s lives.

The past years brought many challenges, yet, through the difficulties, the hope for brighter and reimagined possibilities became a reality. This was possible because of the creativity and the strong human spirit our communities shared toward supporting each other and ensuring that our students continued their success. Their education has evolved, and thanks to outstanding leadership, excellent results are taking place in our schools. As a lifelong learner, I am passionate about helping all of our students succeed. Together the unimagined is possible, and their future is bright. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*My bio and photo are attached. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

**Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.**

Garza, a strong advocate for all students' educational success, is a lifelong learner and passionate about education. She has served on the South Texas ISD Board since 2008 and currently serves as secretary. She also is on the Education Foundation of South Texas ISD, where she has served for 17 years. Sylvia serves on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), representing Region one, is a Leadership TASB Master Trustee, and serves on the National Hispanic Council as the Southern Regional Director. She is active in her community, currently serving as chair of the Museum of South Texas History Board. She is a member of Texas Authors, the Writer’s League of Texas, and the South Texas Literacy Coalition. Sylvia is involved with multiple organizations as a community volunteer. She has served on the American Cancer Society's steering committee and helped organize local Relay for Life events. She was a 4-H club manager, vice president of the PTSO, and a parent volunteer for the local swim club, KMAC, Boys Scouts, and soccer. Also, her family has hosted three foreign exchange students. She grew up in Weslaco, where the local library is named after her father, a former migrant farmworker, superintendent, mayor, and author. Her four sons all attended South Texas I.S.D. Her eldest son is a graduate from Columbia Law School, and her second son is a graduate of U.T.R.G.V.'s School of Medicine first cohort. Her two youngest sons are on their paths to graduation. Together with her husband, [REDACTED], two sons, and three dogs, she resides in Edinburg.

Garza has a Ph.D. from Our Lady of the Lake University’s School of Business and Leadership. She also has a M.Ed. from Lamar University, an MFA in creative writing from National University, and a B.A. in English from The University of Texas–Pan American. Professionally, she and her husband own B.I.C. Development and Garco Ranch Communities. She is an author, and her novel, *Cascarones*, about the cultures and traditions of growing up in South Texas, has won several awards. “*Ojo*,” was published in an anthology, *Living Beyond Borders*, by Penguin Teens. At the start of the pandemic, she spent her extra time writing poetry as an outlet and had several poems published in literary magazines, including two anthologies, *What They Leave Behind* and *Boundless*. A poetry chapbook, *Awaken*, was recently published by White Bird Publications, and a young adult novel is forthcoming.

