President's Message
Finally we are beginning to see signs of Fall! Cooler temperatures, a little rain, and Friday nights taken up with football rivalries as the students of Texas are busy with learning and adapting to a school year riddled with change. However, children are nothing if not resilient. As we all know, they adapt much more quickly than adults and, under the guidance of their teachers, will succeed, of that I am confident!

This new school year has nearly all districts holding tight to already decreased budgets and looking ahead to what is next. The first GCAASB meeting in August drew a record crowd of Trustees and Superintendents interested in hearing David Thompson’s views on what exactly is next. The 130+ crowd was eager for the opportunity to take away any information that will assist them in focusing on the next level of difficulty in providing an optimal quality education for children attending public schools in Texas. It is not going to get easier!

While much of is considered “local control” by school boards has been replaced with governmental control, as Trustees we are still in a unique position to bring forth a stronger educational future, both locally and statewide. As elected public officials, we are bound to represent our constituents and to serve. It is on us, individually, to become informed, to take action, and to follow through with making education a priority. Our duties as Trustees may be part time and voluntary but, in order to be effective, they must become a full time dedication. Think about that. Are you doing all you can as a Trustee to make education a priority?

Please mark your calendars for November 16 to attend the next GCAASB meeting where demographer Steve Murdoch will discuss “Texas Students Now and In the Future”. Also, as you attend the TASB/TASA Convention in Austin later this month, you are encouraged to stop by the Area Associations of School Boards booth at the entrance to the exhibit hall to pick up your area ribbon to display your pride in being part of GCAASB! We appreciate each one of you and look forward to seeing you in Austin!

“The sign on the door of opportunity reads PUSH.”

Kathy Green, President

Executive Board vacancy filled
The GCAASB Executive Board has appointed Steven Dennis of the Channelview ISD Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of GCAASB Director Jeffrey Mitchell from his position on the Spring ISD Board of Trustees.
Texas students to be examined at November 16 membership meeting

The second fall GCAASB membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 16 at Region 4 ESC will feature Steve Murdock, former State Demographer and current Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor in Sociology at The Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University, discussing the social and economic changes of “Texas Students Now and In the Future”.

Associate Members co-sponsoring that meeting’s meal will be the Belt Harris Pechacek, LLP, and Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos and Green, P.C. They will also conduct drawings for the four $500 student scholarships that will be awarded.

Reservations must be made by 10 a.m. Friday, November 11 to ensure that sufficient food is prepared by AC Catering. All reservations need to be made by e-mailing GCSchoolBoards@aol.com or by calling GCAASB Executive Secretary Jerry Smith at 832-722-0213 since legislative funding reductions have caused Region 4 to reduce staff.

At the August 31 GCAASB membership meeting, attorney David Thompson of the Thompson & Horton LLP law firm noted that, as the result of reduced funding of public education by the Texas Legislature, Texas school districts are moving toward another round of litigation since all significant changes in funding public education since 1975, except for HB 72, have been in response to court decisions.

Earning $500 student scholarships for their school district at that meeting were trustees Becky Streetman of Huffman ISD, Joe Stephens of Galena Park ISD, Ron McGraw of Anahuac ISD, and Linda Butler of Dickinson ISD. GCAASB Associate Members Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP, and cre8 Architects, who co-sponsored the dinner, drew the winning tickets.

Districts, Associates renewing GCAASB membership

Thirty-three school districts and 15 supportive education-related businesses had renewed their GCAASB membership by the September 15 “dues-due” date.

Renewing memberships during the August 1-September 15 period were the Bellville, Alvin, Columbia-Brazoria, Clear Creek, Klein, Aldine, Huffman, Hempstead, Channelview, Dickinson, Tomball, Pearland, Humble, and Sheldon school districts.

The Alief, Danbury, Waller, Galena Park, Pasadena, Texas City, Needville, Goose Creek, Lamar Consolidated, La Porte, Cypress-Fairbanks, Spring, Stafford, Houston, Hitchcock, Fort Bend, and Spring Branch school districts as well as Region 4 ESC and Harris County Department of Education had renewed their GCAASB memberships by August 1.

Associate Members renewing their status since August 1 were the investment firm of Jefferies & Company, Inc., architects cre8 Incorporated and SHW Group, the law firm of Thompson & Horton LLP, certified public accountants Belt Harris Pechacek LLP, the delinquent tax collection firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP, and individual Deval Allums of Siemens Industries.

Attorney Richard Peebles, the law firms of Ogden, Gibson, Broocks, Longoria & Hall, LLP.; Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green, P.C.; and Rogers, Morris & Grover LLP, and architects Ambrose and House, LLP; VLK Architects, Inc.; Bay Architects, Inc.; and PBK, Inc. had previously renewed their Associate Member status.
Region 4 Honor Board, Superintendent to be recognized at Convention

The Barbers Hill ISD Board of Trustees, the Honor Board for Region 4, is one of the five finalists for the Texas Honor Board award to be presented during the TASB/TASA Convention in Austin September 30-October 2.

Serving on the Barbers Hill Board are President Carmena Goss, Vice President Becky Tice, Secretary Benny May, and members Cynthia Erwin, Ron Mayfield, Fred Skinner, and George Barrera. They were nominated by Supt. Dr. Greg Poole.

Aldine ISD Supt. Dr. Wanda Bamberg, who was selected as Region 4 Superintendent of the Year, will also be recognized during the convention.

TASB/TASA Convention to feature programs by GCAASB members

Representatives from 10 GCAASB-member school districts and from six GCAASB Associate Members will make presentations at the TASB/TASA Convention in Austin Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Following is a listing of those presentations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>PRESENTER(S)</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Critical Connections</td>
<td>Channelview ISD</td>
<td>13AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Libraries without Borders: Shaping Learning through Interactive Media Centers</td>
<td>VLK Architects</td>
<td>18D</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Online Credit Recovery Initiative</td>
<td>Houston ISD</td>
<td>19B</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Paying for College – Tax Strategies and Financial Aid</td>
<td>Spring Branch ISD</td>
<td>12B</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Special Education – Tips from the Trenches</td>
<td>Schwartz &amp; Eichelbaum</td>
<td>11AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>The Most Unkindest Cut of All: Surviving a RIF with a Conscience</td>
<td>Schwartz &amp; Eichelbaum</td>
<td>11AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Bullying – What to Know About It and How to Avoid Legal Claims</td>
<td>Escamilla, Poneck, &amp; Cruz, LLP</td>
<td>13AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Educating in a Tough Economy</td>
<td>Cypress-Fairbanks ISD</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>1:00 – 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Grievances: What You Need to Know</td>
<td>Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos &amp; Green, P.C.</td>
<td>17A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Keep the Doors Open: Creative Tips for Reducing M&amp;O Costs of Existing Facilities</td>
<td>PBK Architects and Klein ISD</td>
<td>11AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Let’s Play the Homeschool Feud!</td>
<td>Waller ISD</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>ESCO Performance Contracting – Guaranteed Operating Savings</td>
<td>PBK Architects and Region 4 ESC</td>
<td>17B</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>HISD’s New Teacher Appraisal and Development System</td>
<td>Houston ISD</td>
<td>18A</td>
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<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Navigating Student Discipline: It Can Be Done!</td>
<td>Thompson &amp; Horton, LLP</td>
<td>19A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Public Comment Time – Love It or Hate It</td>
<td>Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos &amp; Green, P.C.</td>
<td>17A</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Surviving the Storm: Tax Ratification Elections in 2011 and Beyond</td>
<td>Thompson &amp; Horton, LLP</td>
<td>18C</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>The ABCs of IEPs: Special Education for Board Members</td>
<td>Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos &amp; Green, P.C.</td>
<td>16B</td>
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<td>1:30 – 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Leading and Learning (Virtually!) Anytime, Anyplace</td>
<td>Humble ISD</td>
<td>16A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Redirecting Attention to Lowering Costs and Raising Student Performance</td>
<td>SHW Group and Spring ISD</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Transforming Learning and Teaching through Technology</td>
<td>Klein ISD</td>
<td>17B</td>
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Make Reservations by 10:00 a.m. November 11 for the November 16 Program “Texas Students Now and In the Future” by e-mailing GCSchoolBoards.com or by calling Jerry Smith at 832-722-0213

Our Students …
Our Staff …
Our Schools …
Our Responsibility!

2011-2012
Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards
Proud of Our Public Schools!!!

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