On the Road Again: Soaring to Success…Literally!
By Orin Moore, Board Consultant

At the start of a goal-setting session with Karnes City ISD (KCISD), I asked the board to share some highlights since my last visit with them. Highlights? How about an update on the aviation program at KCISD? Literally speaking, a highlight probably doesn’t get any higher than an aviation program. Oh the puns to be made about an aviation program! I will be using several here, so prepare for takeoff.

I’m not sure how I managed to miss learning about the KCISD Aviation Program during my first visit to the district, perhaps the program was flying under the radar. But, since the success and resourcefulness of our public schools should never fly under the radar, I reached out to KCISD’s David Purser for more details.

David Purser is KCISD’s secondary science teacher, and he teaches physics and aviation. In David’s words, the leadership team at KCISD has made this venture “overwhelmingly possible.” While leadership may set the course and make resources available, frontline personnel are critical to any education endeavor. David and other KCISD employees worked with students during their lunch break to pilot the aviation program in its infancy. Squeezing in an aviation course during a lunch break is a perfect example of the resourcefulness and sacrificial nature of public school personnel. An even better example would be the time David and other employees, like the curriculum director, spent unpacking the Physics TEKS to ensure alignment with the aviation course.

The launch of this program has certainly been a community effort. The Karnes City ISD Education Foundation (one of the members happens to be a pilot) made the purchase of flight simulators possible. Meanwhile, board members support and promote the program throughout the community. Other community members and even the international Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) have done their fair share of work to get this program off the ground by making field trips and curriculum available and by networking with other aviators to provide some amazing experiences for students.

The career implications and the opportunity to collaborate with the community, other school districts, and universities align with the board’s vision of providing KCISD students opportunities to fulfill their potential. I really appreciated David’s final thoughts on the matter as I felt it captured the relentless effort of educators to make school engaging while preparing kids for the future. David expressed that this program not only prepares students with skills to take advantage of the need for workers in the aviation industry, but it also helps kids engage in those STEM subjects that historically tend to be more daunting and challenging. I want to thank the KCISD community for reminding us that the sky truly is the limit when we seek creative ways to give our kids the best future.

continued >

Training, Events, & Reminders

**Spring Workshops:**
- **March 26—Wichita Falls**
  Region 9 ESC
- **March 28—Kingsville**
  Texas A&M University—Kingsville
- **April 17—Lubbock**
  Region 17 ESC
- **April 19—Stephenville**
  Tarleton State University
- **April 25—Houston**
  Region 4 ESC
- **May 2—El Paso**
  Region 19 ESC
- **May 8—Alpine**
  Sul Ross State University
- **May 10—Uvalde**
  Uvalde ISD
- **May 15—Commerce**
  Texas A&M University—Commerce
- **May 15—Nacogdoches**
  Stephen F. Austin State University
- **May 16—Victoria**
  Victoria College Conference & Education Center
- **May 16—Canyon**
  West Texas A&M University
- **May 17—Abilene**
  Region 14 ESC
- **May 18–19—South Padre**
  South Padre Island Convention Center
- **May 22—Waco**
  Region 12 ESC
- **May 23—Huntsville**
  Region 6 ESC

**Online Learning Center (OLC):** Log in with your myTASB credentials and training credits will be added to your CEC report within 15 minutes. Courses are available 24/7 at onlinelearning.tasb.org.
Newly Required SB 1566 Training

Newly required SB 1566 training is now available through TASB. Contact LTS@tasb.org for more information.

Spring Workshops: Training Close to Home

TASB is hitting the road for 2018 Spring Workshops! These trainings are a wonderful way to take advantage of a whole board learning opportunity. Research indicates that team performance improves when boards learn as a whole team. Spring Workshops are informative, easy on the travel budget, and help keep trustees nearer to the responsibilities they have at home.

We'd love to meet your whole team at one of the workshops, so check out the listing to find the workshop closest to your district, and visit LTS.tasb.org for more details.

Election Focused, Policy Update 110 Hitting Districts Now

By Abby Chalmers, Policy Consultant

On the heels of the mammoth policy Update 109, superintendents and board members alike can look forward to the much smaller Update 110 arriving in districts now.

Update 110 focuses on updating and reorganizing several policies in the BB series of the policy manual addressing board member eligibility and qualifications, elections, and vacancies and removal from office. The policy on elections has been divided into several codes for ease of use, and district choices about election processes are now located in BBB (LOCAL) rather than in the LEGAL policies, which is consistent with the structure of the other policies in the manual.

Legal policies addressing bond elections and political advertising (CCA and CPAB respectively) were affected by changes from the 85th legislative session, but were not included in Update 109. Changes to these two policies are instead addressed as part of the Update 110 elections review.

In preparation for this Update, TASB sent a survey to all school districts to gather information regarding local election practices. Individual district responses are reflected in the BBB (LOCAL) policy included in Update 110, but below is a breakdown of school board elections across the state.

School Board Elections

- **Board Size**
  - 7 members: 2%
  - Other: 98%

- **Election Method**
  - At large: 33%
  - Position/Place: 52%
  - Combination: 8%
  - Single-member districts: 7%

- **Election Date**
  - May: 30%
  - November: 70%

- **Election Terms**
  - Annually to 3-year term: 32%
  - Biennially to 4-year term: 68%

Data is based on initial survey responses from 1,020 districts, prior to final confirmations and policy revisions.