

# Leadership Team Times

July 2017

## Reporting from SLI!

By the time you read this, Summer Leadership Institute 2017 will be over. Even so, the spirit of SLI is still moving in full force from the momentum of an inspiring conference. The content that follows is an account of some SLI highlights recorded live as they happened.

What happens when the bulb in a lighthouse burns out? Do seafarers no longer need guidance? Of course they do! When the bulb in a lighthouse burns out, the challenges confronting navigators still exist. The only sensible thing to do is to replace the bulb.

General session speaker Sam Glenn used the lighthouse analogy to challenge every educational leader in the room to evaluate the light of their leadership. How is your light? Is it bright? Is it bright enough to play its part in guiding 5.3 million Texas schoolchildren through one of the most important phases of their lives?

Perhaps our light is shining brightly, and we've even worked to light the lamp of other supporters. If you've helped ignite the spark in someone else, then you're taking the kind of action governance leaders need to take.

Being a leader means taking action. Taking action means taking risks. Guest speaker Marisa Rivera believes that leadership is worth the risk because the outcome of good leadership is far greater than material gain or personal advancement. From the looks of it, an entire ballroom of governance leaders agree with her.

Do you remember when you were sworn in as a trustee? What commitments did you promise to fulfill in executing your duty? If you're an administrator or other district leader, what promises have you implicitly or explicitly made? Do you truly believe that a promise is a promise? If you find these questions challenging, then you're in the same boat as every other leader in the ballroom during Alex Sheen's presentation.

In one of the most compelling and challenging presentations ever heard at SLI, Alex Sheen pulled at the heart strings of everyone within earshot. Leaders keep their word. When things get tough, leaders still keep their word. When leaders nearly lose all they have, they still keep their word.

I believe everyone who attended SLI 2017 had high hopes and expectations for their individual learning experience. I believe those expectations were met. I asked a group of trustees sitting in a breakout session to share a statement to include in this edition of Leadership Team Times. From the middle of the room, someone yelled, "Expect more, get more!" His words rang true that day and will forever ring true in our line of work.

## XG Board Development

By now you've probably heard about eXceptional Governance and even read some of the XG Project proclamations written on boards and notecards at SLI, or maybe you've



## Training, Events, & Reminders

**TASA/TASB Convention:** October 6–8, Dallas

**TASB Talks Podcast:** Check out the TASB Talks podcast at [tasbtalks.org](http://tasbtalks.org) or subscribe on iTunes and SoundCloud for noncredit learning opportunities.

**TASB's Online Learning Center:** Courses available 24/7. Log in to myTASB to access course catalog.

## Did You Know?

You can still catch the sessions that were livestreamed at SLI Fort Worth on the TASB Facebook page [facebook.com/tasbpage](https://www.facebook.com/tasbpage). Take the corresponding quizzes on the OLC to get credit for the course.

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seen the videos of trustees, superintendents, and other governance leaders defining eXceptional Governance.

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of **TASB eXceptional Governance Board Development**, referred to as XG Board Development. XG Board Development offers a five-session, whole-board learning experience focused on improving student outcomes. This research-informed approach to board development is TASB's commitment to offer governance practices that move the needle for student performance.

XG Board Development will be available soon. Contact **LTS@tasb.org** for more information.



## All New TASB Online Learning Center Is Here

The new Online Learning Center (OLC) rolled out at Summer Leadership Institute. In addition to easy access from your desktop or mobile device, the single-sign-on feature means users automatically have access to the OLC when logged in to myTASB. Only one password to remember! Learning on the go has never been so convenient. Congratulations to Scott Watkins, Terlingua CSD; Michelle Smith, Lytle ISD; Denise Monzingo, Rockdale ISD; Yolanda Bruney, Arp ISD; and Paulina Robins, Conroe ISD, for being among the first users in the new system! Watch for new topics as our course catalog continues to grow. Contact Lisa Carothers at **lisa.carothers@tasb.org** if you have questions or need assistance with the OLC.

## On the Road Again

*By Orin Moore, Board Consultant*

I remember a classmate in my high school geometry class making an argument about the futility of Geometry. "I think this stuff is useless! It would be a different story if I could walk outside and see a line, a line segment, a point, or a hypotenuse, but I can't!"

While I think we all agree that the necessity of geometry is far greater than my classmate could see at the moment (he eventually agreed as well), it's easy to understand the disconnect that birthed his statement.

How often do we question the validity of information or a practice when we can't see it applied practically? Even better, how reaffirming is it when an applied action or practice yields the result it's supposed to? It's like a science experiment gone right.

During a teambuilding session, I asked the Kemp ISD leadership team to share their beliefs. I was impressed by their responses. Collectively, they are a leadership team that believes boards can make a difference, education is power, and their system is capable of high-quality instruction.

I was impressed again when reviewing the outcome of an interest alignment survey that team members completed independently prior to stating their beliefs. The survey results indicated that every team member believed their district is capable of teaching students at a high level. This is a great demonstration of the kind of solidarity boards need to be productive.

There is evidence tying school performance and leadership activity to the beliefs of school leaders. It was reaffirming to see how the individual beliefs and values of Kemp's leadership team have produced a body corporate that is unified in its views about classroom instruction, one of the most important levers in student performance. Way to go Kemp ISD for realizing the outcome of applied best practices!

## Timely Resources

These publications may be especially useful this time of year:

- Quick Tips for New Board Members
- Continuing Education Requirements for School Board Members

Go to **LTS.tasb.org** for a complete list of resources. Order these publications at **store.tasb.org** or call **800.580.8272, extension 1068**.

## Contact Us

*Leadership Team Times* is produced by the TASB Leadership Team Services (LTS) Division. For more information about LTS and its training opportunities and services, plus an electronic version of this newsletter, go to **LTS.tasb.org**. Contact Orin Moore at **orin.moore@tasb.org** with questions or comments.