

# Leadership Team Times

August 2017

## Exciting Convention Updates

The TASA/TASB Convention is back in Dallas this year, October 6–8. Housing is open, and pre-registration continues through September 22 at [tasa.tasb.org](http://tasa.tasb.org). It's a good time to consider how your personalized learning journey will benefit your school district.

The TASA/TASB Convention offers more learning opportunities than you could possibly squeeze into three days, but that shouldn't stop you from taking in as much as you can. Here are a few of the content delivery formats you'll see this year:

- In-depth workshops
- New school board member seminar
- Extra credit sessions
- Thought leaders

Additionally, field trip options have returned for 2017, so consider taking advantage of this 2.5-hour credit-earning learning experience on Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Choose a trek through the Perot Museum of Nature and Science or the Dallas Museum of Art for hands-on training that makes many school subjects come to life. Go to Program > Education on [tasa.tasb.org](http://tasa.tasb.org) for more information.



## Revisiting Team Building

Boards are required to earn at least three hours of team-building credit each year. In accordance with the Texas Education Code, team-building sessions "must include a review of the roles, rights, and responsibilities of a local board as outlined in the framework for governance leadership" and an assessment of the board-superintendent team's continuing education needs.

What does your board do for team building *beyond* these minimum requirements? Do you make sure to include time to reflect on successes and challenges? Do you make an effort to understand a colleague whose views often seem to conflict with yours? Do you make time to laugh together and remind one another that you all got into this work for generally the same reasons?

It's easy for a team to overlook the potential value of team building sessions if the minimum requirements are the main focus. This year, take a moment to understand the value of a cohesive team and let that understanding drive outcomes for your team-building session.



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## Training, Events, & Reminders

**TASB/TACCA Post-Legislative Seminar for Community Colleges:**

August 4, Austin

**Webinar: School Board Candidates:** September 5

**TASA/TASB Convention:** October 6–8, Dallas • Hotel deposits due August 25 • Cutoff for preregistration September 22

**TASB Conference for Administrative Professionals:** October 19–20, Austin

**Online Learning Center (OLC):** Courses available 24/7 and are now accessible through myTASB

## Did You Know?

With the May elections, TASB welcomed 338 new school board members. Let's make sure we do our part to help new colleagues plan their learning journey while being mindful of the amount of new information they'll be taking in. As a reminder, trustees must complete an orientation to the Texas Education Code within 120 days of being elected or appointed. Call **800.580.8272** for more information.



## Winter Governance & Legal Seminar

The Winter Governance and Legal Seminar (WGLS) is pulling up its anchor and moving to Galveston Island for the first time! WGLS will be March 1–3, 2018, at the San Luis Hotel and Conference Center. Here are the top five reasons you don't want to miss out:

1. State-of-the-art waterfront meeting facilities
2. More convenient and comfortable hotel options
3. Same great sessions geared toward small districts
4. Expanded number of Student Voices sessions
5. Lots of dining and entertainment hot-spots



For more information on this year's WGLS, visit [tasb.org/wgls](http://tasb.org/wgls).

## On the Road Again

*By Kay Douglas, LTS Senior Consultant*

TASB consultants consider the opportunity to establish relationships with boards and superintendents the hallmark of the work we do. Many times these relationships exist for years. One such relationship I developed is with Hearne ISD, who I began working with in 2010. After that, I maintained a relationship despite changes in board members and superintendents.

Last year, when they attended Lone Star Governance training in Houston, I was there as an observer. In April, they received a letter from TEA proposing to lower their accreditation and remove the board and superintendent. They decided to appeal, and I requested and was approved to accompany them as an observer.

I was the first to arrive and took a seat on one side of the room. For the next hour-and-a-half, I listened to the district present their case. They began with the board president, Mr. James Taylor, followed by the superintendent, Dr. Adrain Johnson, curriculum specialists, and two lawyers. They demonstrated how they had implemented what was learned at Lone Star Governance with fidelity. They used a PowerPoint presentation to outline the goals they had set along with constraints and a monitoring schedule. They discussed community support and provided a detailed plan for the future. Representatives from the agency, including investigators, legal counsel, Deputy Commissioner Crabbill, and Commissioner Morath asked lots of probing questions to ascertain what would be different for the students of the district.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the district was told they would be notified of the Commissioner's final decision. I left feeling that the hearing had been a fair one and that the district had presented a great deal of information in a coherent fashion, outlining the uniqueness of their situation. Several days later, I received the news that although the accreditation rating had been lowered, the board and superintendent had not been removed. Based upon what I know of the district, I am confident that they will make the most of the reprieve that they have been given to continue to improve outcomes for their students.

Although I had never before observed such a hearing, I was heartened by the fact that the agency representatives seemed to listen and carefully weigh the information presented. The outcome gave me cause to believe that the system of checks and balances of school board oversight and governance is alive and well, which bodes well for the schoolchildren of our state.

## Timely Resources

These publications may be especially useful this time of year:

- Building Effective Board-Superintendent Teams
- Fiscal Responsibility

Go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) for a complete list of resources. Order these publications at [store.tasb.org](http://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](http://LTS.tasb.org). Contact Orin Moore at [orin.moore@tasb.org](mailto:orin.moore@tasb.org) with questions or comments.