

Leadership Team Times

November/December 2017

Better Together

by Kay Douglass, Senior Consultant

Age-old wisdom says that “iron sharpens iron.” Never was that more appropriate than for this year’s nominees for the 2017 Superintendent of the Year. As always, the process began with local school boards submitting their nominations and each region selecting one that was then sent on to the statewide committee at TASB.

At the end of that process, Dr. Latonya Goffney, superintendent at Lufkin ISD, was selected as the winner. In her acceptance speech at this year’s convention, she thanked fellow nominee and finalist Dr. Thomas Randle for being a “trailblazer.” Prior to that, Dr. Goffney had mentioned another nominee, Mr. Tommy Hooker, was a role model for her when he was junior high principal in Huntsville and she was an assistant principal in Coldspring. In talking with her, I learned that she and fellow finalist Dr. Robert Jaklich of Victoria ISD had started together in the TASA Superintendent’s Academy and stayed in touch. She marveled that despite the fact that he was at a much larger district than her, he had always taken her calls. Another nominee who has been a great help to her is Arturo Cavazos of Harlingen, who she said has been like a brother since they served together on the UIL Waiver Review Board. They used the breaks at those meetings to discuss ways to improve their respective districts.

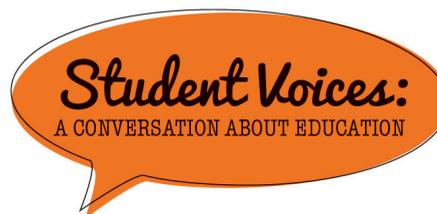
What struck me during her heartfelt remarks is how connected all of the nominees seemed to be. Excellence attracts excellence, and our amazing superintendents throughout the state encourage and bring out the best in each other. How fortunate for our children that these servant-leaders are willing to share their expertise. Athletic and academic rivalries aside, we really are all in this together. In the words of Dr. Goffney, “When one rises, we all rise.”

The 411: Winter Governance and Legal Seminar

Lots of exciting things are happening around TASB as preparations for the Winter Governance and Legal Seminar (WGLS) begin. You won’t want to miss this year’s fun, March 1–3, in Galveston. If you are interested in playing a bigger role at WGLS, you are invited to take the time to step up and step out by applying to present! Session applications will be available Friday, November 10, at tasb.org/wgls.

Student Voices are getting even louder at the 2018 event. Student applications are now being accepted for:

- Sessions presented or copresented by students (applications due December 8)
- High-school-senior panel and scholarship participants (applications due January 17)
- Creative group performances (poets, dancers, musicians, or other artists)



Training, Events, & Reminders

2017 Fall Legal Seminars:

Nov. 3—Austin
Nov. 8—Commerce
Nov. 9—Nacogdoches
Nov. 14—Abilene
Nov. 16—Amarillo
Nov. 18—South Padre Island

Region 16 TASB 2018 Grassroots Meeting:

December

Online Learning Center (OLC):

Courses available 24/7 at onlinelearning.tasb.org

Candidate webinars:

February and March

Did You Know?

The first Winter Governance & Legal Seminar took place in Kemah, Texas, 21 years ago. Going to Galveston, Texas, in 2018 is putting us fairly close to where it all began!

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Visit tasb.org/wgls or e-mail wgls@tasb.org for applications and more details about all the ways Student Voices will be integrated into this year's WGLS.

On the Road Again—Leadership TASB Class of 2018 Takes Off

by Bill Rutherford, Senior Consultant

The 2018 Class of Leadership TASB (LTASB) is on the road. Session one was in Dallas during the recent TASA/TASB Convention, and the 30 board members from all parts of Texas have their bags packed for the continuation of their learning journeys. What's ahead for them as they begin to hit the road?

Session two will be in Odessa in November. Using case study methodology, the class hopes to learn about the local district's history and see how that history played into the current rating of some campuses as Improvement Required (IR). The LTASB class will also witness new and unique steps taken by the board and administration to improve student success.

It won't stop there. Session three will be in Galveston in March. There, the class hopes to focus on schools in transition—from hurricane preparedness to forced annexation, how does that impact governance?

Next up, they'll get back on the road and head to the other side of Texas. Session four will be in El Paso in April, where immigration issues and public school education will be studied. Just what is the board's role as it struggles to make real its commitment to educate all children?

The final stop will be Fort Worth in June. Session five will center on the research conducted by the six teams composed of LTASB 2018 members. All eagerly await to hear findings from their 10-month learning journey.

Stay tuned, as articles documenting their adventure in leadership will appear in issues of the *Texas Lone Star*, and be sure to visit LTS.tasb.org/LTASB for more information about the Leadership TASB program.

End-of-Year CEC Announcement

As the holiday season rolls around with the end of the year not too far off, it's always good to check in on continuing education credit (CEC) compliance. The State Board of Education rule on board member continuing education requires the local board president to make the announcement about compliance with training requirements at the last meeting of the calendar year.

At this meeting, the names of those trustees who do not meet the minimum number of training credits will be announced as not meeting their "basic obligation and expectation of the State Board of Education." For information on making the announcement, go to LTS.tasb.org and click "Announcing Credit" on the right-hand side of the page.

If you need additional continuing education before the end of the year, TASB's Online Learning Center (OLC) can help. The OLC has resources available year-round at onlinelearning.tasb.org.



Timely Resources

These TASB resources may be especially useful this time of year:

- Serving on a Board: An Insider's Guide for School Board Candidates
- The Board's Role in Improving Student Achievement
- Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure
- Superintendent evaluation resources

Go to LTS.tasb.org for a complete list of resources.

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.