

Leadership Team Times

January 2018

Remember When You Said You Would

By Orin Moore, Board Consultant

Do you recall the promises you made when you took the oath of office? How long has it been since you took that oath? Do you remember what you swore (or affirmed) you would do? These questions can provoke feelings of condemnation or, as intended, elicit thoughtful reflection on some honorable promises you made to kids and families who live in your district.

If you attended Summer Leadership Institute in 2017 and took the opportunity to hear Alex Sheen, founder of Because I Said I Would, you might agree that he delivered an unbelievably powerful message on the importance of keeping promises. Many listeners left that general session teary-eyed. Many more left with some amazing resolutions and a renewed sense of commitment.

As you're making resolutions this year, be sure to leave some bandwidth for fulfilling promises for your school district. As Alex Sheen would say, "You can pretend to care, but you can't pretend to show up." What does it mean to show up for your students? How will your board show up this year for your district?

Let us know how we can help you get the year off to a great start. Thank you for all you do for Texas schoolchildren.

Lockhart ISD First District to Complete XG Training

By Orin Moore, Board Consultant

On November 27, 2017, Lockhart ISD was recognized as the first board-superintendent team to complete the new eXceptional Governance (XG) Board Development Training. Lockhart began the five-session, research-based



Left to right: TASB Division Director of Leadership Team Services Phil Gore, Ph.D., Trustee Michael Wright, Trustee Becky Lockhart, Board Secretary Tom Guyton, Superintendent Susan Bohn, Board President Brenda Spillmann, Board Vice President Carl Cisneros, Trustee Steve Johnson, Trustee Warren Burnett, and TASB Executive Director Jim Crow

training in April 2017 and completed the final session in November.

Several TASB employees attended the board meeting to congratulate the district. We have enjoyed telling their story at TASB and on the road, but the leadership team at Lockhart ISD tells the story better than anyone.

Board President Brenda Spillmann and Superintendent Susan K. Bohn shared part of that story at the TASA/TASB Convention last year, just before completing the final ses-

Training, Events, & Reminders

2018 Grassroots Meetings

January 10—Region 13
January 16—Region 3
January 23—Region 18 (Alpine)
January 24—Region 18 (Midland)
January 24—Region 7
January 25—Region 8

2018 Winter Legal Seminar

February 13, Tyler
February 20, El Paso

TASB Conference for Administrative Professionals

February 22–23, Austin

Winter Governance & Legal Seminar

March 1–3, Galveston

Online Learning Center (OLC):

Courses available 24/7 at onlinelearning.tasb.org

Did You Know?

The TASB Conference for Administrative Professionals is now in its 12th year? We're glad to partner with administrative professionals as they serve their local districts and school boards.

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sion of the training. “For our district, it was time to shift to a true focus on student outcomes rather than on simply completing activities,” Spillman and Bohn said.

“We now have clear and concise goals for student performance for the 2017–18 school year.”

When you have time, congratulate and encourage the Lockhart ISD leadership team for its efforts.

You can read Lockhart ISD’s full story in the October 2017 edition of *Leadership Team Times* at LTS.tasb.org.

On the Road Again—New Year, Fresh Start

By Kay Douglas, Senior Consultant

It’s School Board Recognition Month, and we would like to express our gratitude to all of you who unselfishly give your time, talents, and energy to improve educational outcomes for students. Although board service can sometimes seem like a thankless job, please know that what you do matters to your students, staff, parents, and community.

We also take this time to encourage you to look for ways to make your board-superintendent team more cohesive and productive. Many of you will execute superintendent evaluations this month. Hopefully, you also have done or will do a board self-evaluation to identify your strengths and areas for growth. From there, put in place concrete strategies for specific actions you will take to monitor progress and achieve the desired results. This is a good time to update your board calendar, outlining which student achievement areas you will track and how frequently.

Be sure to update your plan for how you will communicate all of these achievements to your staff, parents, and community. Never before has it been more important that you shine the light on the amazing things public education is doing. Brainstorm ways that you can strengthen the partnerships you have within the community and forge new ones. Don’t overlook the important partnerships with your state and federal legislators. Advocacy is key to keeping the needs of your district before the decision-makers. The stakes are too high to simply accept the status quo.

Although it would be easy to just throw up your hands in frustration and discouragement, you must continue to dream big dreams for your students and dedicate yourselves to fighting to make them a reality. Failure simply is not an option.

NEWS FLASH! Winter Governance and Legal Seminar

The 21st Annual Winter Governance and Legal Seminar is all “grown-up” in a new location! Kathy and Mandy visited Galveston in December for more **#wingov18** planning, and we could not be more excited to share with you all we discovered on the island. Mandy reports, “Our members are going to love the great beaches, restaurants, and all that Galveston has to offer along with the beautiful and easy-to-navigate convention center.”

Housing and registration open this month. Visit tasb.org/wgls and follow [@TASBwingov](https://twitter.com/TASBwingov) on Twitter for more planning updates.

Timely Resources

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

- A President’s Guide to Facilitating Superintendent Evaluations
- A New Board Member’s Guide to Superintendent Evaluations
- The Board’s Role in Improving Student Achievement

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.