

Leadership Team Times

August 2018

A Journey through Your Policy Manual

By Abby Chalmers, Policy Consultant

Often, summer presents us opportunities for exploration. For some, it's achieved through exciting travel adventures; for others, it comes through professional development—discovering tools and resources to guide work throughout the rest of the year.

TASB Policy Service invites you on a professional development journey as we wrap up the summer. We have created a number of resources, available for free through myTASB, to help board members and district administrators navigate the often confusing territory of the interplay of federal and state law, TEA and State Board rules, and local community values all within local policies.

The feature resource for board members is *The Board Member's Guide to Policy*, which clarifies the board's role in policy development and adoption as one aspect of district governance, as well as the role of TASB Policy Service in helping boards and administrators comply with federal, state, and local mandates while meeting the unique needs and challenges of their communities.

The first tool for administrators is *The Administrator's Guide to Policy Management*, which provides an overview of the contents of the policy manual, discusses the reasons for and logistics of policy changes, and outlines the role of administrative regulations in implementing legal requirements and board policy.

In response to changes in state and federal law, court cases, or decisions by attorneys general or the commissioner of education, several times a year TASB Policy Service sends updates to school districts. These numbered updates are mini-adventures through your policy manual and come with their own resources, available through myTASB, including an executive summary, highlight videos, and other helpful tools. Districts will be receiving Update 111 throughout the month of July, so be on the lookout for your next opportunity to do some policy exploration.

Convention: New Pre-conference Workshops

The TASA/TASB Convention is back in Austin this year, September 28–30! Registration and housing are open now through Sep-

tember 21. Trustees should also consider registering for a Pre-conference Workshop. Take advantage of this three-hour-credit-earning learning experience, Thursday, September 27, 2–5 p.m. Choose between Apple's *Preparing Students for a Mobile Workforce* or the *Google for Education Design Thinking Workshop* with Google and the O'Briant Group. Advanced registration is required and participation is limited. For more information, visit tasa.tasb.org.



Training, Events, & Reminders

TASB Online Learning Center (OLC): Be sure to check out some new offerings.

TASA/TASB Convention: September 28-30

For more information e-mail LTS@tasb.org or call **800.580.8272, extension 2452**.

Did You Know?

The mandatory Senate Bill 1566 training can now be taken care of from the comfort of your home through TASB's Online Learning Center (OLC). Visit **onlinelearning.tasb.org** and log in with your myTASB credentials to enroll in the *SB1566: Governance for Improved Student Learning* course today.

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Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) Recap

Every Texan knows that things heat up in June and this year's SLI was no exception. The two conferences hosted a total of 3,096 attendees, including 101 complete boards! Attending as an entire board allows for a unique joint learning experience, and we value that dedication.

The SLI event planners work hard every year to bring new content and exciting sessions that keep veteran members engaged and new members informed. We appreciate everyone who showed up, ready to learn and share new ideas. Take a moment to review those Learning Journals and remind yourself what moved you most about this year's SLI!

Spring Workshop Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who attended one of the 2018 Spring Workshops. If you didn't make it to one this year, you won't want to miss it in 2019! Here's a look at the 2018 Spring Workshops by the numbers:

- 59 days
- 16 workshops
- 17 regions
- 25,698 miles traveled by staff
- 7 TASB divisions presented
- 20 TASB presenters
- 6 TASB guest sessions
- 63 total sessions presented
- 18 TASB session topics
- 139.5 unique credit hours available
- 1,518 total attendees
- 28 attendees at smallest workshop (Wichita Falls)
- 235 attendees at largest workshop (South Padre Island)
- 94.88 attendees per workshop on average

On the Road Again—Positively Predictable

Orin Moore, Board Consultant

A little over a year ago, I wrote about a goal-setting session with Gorman ISD. The workshop experience we had on June 5, 2017, has come back to visit me in some really positive ways. The experience first resurfaced while making my way out of a session at the 2018 Stephenville Spring Workshop. I was approached by the Gorman ISD board president and another board member who quickly updated me on some substantial gains they had made on one of their goals.

It was amazing to see a board staying accountable and progressing on commitments they had made as a leadership team. It was also nice to see the leadership team realize the fruits of their planning and labor. Those same two trustees told me how their superintendent kept them updated with quarterly and sometimes monthly reports on various matters.

Two months after that conversation in Stephenville, almost exactly a year after that initial June 5 goal-setting session, I found myself in Gorman ISD again. The superintendent and board took their smart goals from last year and wanted to "smarten" them up even further. I wouldn't be surprised if in June 2019 I heard that the Gorman ISD leadership team had posted a meeting to revisit and adjust their goals. They seem to have established a predictable but very positive trend here.

We all know the merits of taking a deliberate and consistent approach to planning our kids' education. Nonetheless, it never gets old seeing teams experience growth and success in their district. Our collective hope is that we don't grow weary in doing this good work.

Timely Resources

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

- Building Effective Board Superintendent Teams
- 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.