

ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, July 2, 2009
6:00 P.M.

NOTICE of Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees at the Administration Building, Board Conference Room, located at 1203 West Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, Texas 76013.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. CLOSED MEETING: 6:00 p.m.
Board Conference Room

Adjournment to closed meeting pursuant to Sections 551.074 of the Government Code for the following purposes:

A. Personnel

1. Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

3. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION: 8:00 p.m.
Board Conference Room

4. DISCUSSION ITEM:

To give the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent the opportunity to share ideas and concepts from the various workshops and sessions attended by Trustees and Superintendent during the 2009 TASB Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) held on June 11-13, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas.

SLI Workshop and Session topics that may be discussed are: *

Post-Legislative Conference
Boardsmanship Basics
Board President's Legal Duties and Responsibilities
Board President's Duties They Never Tell You About
Building Team Relationships
Are You Wasting Money in Your Technology Program?
Re-Energize Your Community with "Board Buzz"
Bonds 101-Class is in Session
Influence and Power - What is the Appropriate Balance?
African American Males Can Be Gifted Too!
Accountability: Past, Present and Future
Board's Role in Adopting a Budget
District Policy Basics
Equity Traps and Equity Skills
Implementing D.A.T.E. and TEEG: Lessons Learned
Eliminating the Drop-Out Rate
Why Board Conversations Matter

Teamwork Basics
District Planning and Accountability Basics
Meeting Preparation Essentials
Achievement Gap – More than Just a Number
The Changing Face of School PR
Educating Immigrant English Language Learners
Improve Board Relations by Using Problem Solving Style
A Social Network Perspective on the Improvement of Institute
Conversations Across the Fence – The Ongoing Process of
School Law Basics
Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure
No Tears Campus Consolidation and Realignment
Creating a Unified and Powerful Voice to Transform Education
Painfree Superintendent Evaluation: 10 Steps to Improve
Putting the “Aye” in T.E.A.M.
Staring Out Right with Your New Superintendent
Federal Stimulus and School Finance Update for 2009
Board President’s Roundtable
Closing the Achievement Gap through Leadership
School Board Café
How to Attract Positive Media for your District
Texas State Honor Board: Why not Mine
Paving the Way for Pre-K: Legislative Update on the State

*Please see the detailed description of these sessions posted online at
www.aisd.net/BoardMembers/Agendas

4. ADJOURNMENT

CERTIFICATE AS TO POSTING OR GIVING OF NOTICE

on this 29th day of June, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., this notice was posted at a place convenient to the public in the central administrative office of the Arlington Independent School District, 1203 West Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, Texas and readily accessible to the general public at all times for 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of the meeting.

Jerry McCullough, Superintendent

PREFACE

Please note that each session descriptor ends with an abbreviation indicating that session's primary focus. Its meaning is noted in the legend below. Other distinctions highlight sessions of interest to different types of audiences, such as the student population of the presenting districts, key words to better describe which specific topic the session will address, and notation of which sessions will be of special interest to small, mid-, and large-sized districts.

LEGEND

Sessions at SLI are primarily for school board members, but many topics are appropriate for ALL audience types and experience levels unless noted with an "N" for newly elected school board members or "P" for school board presidents.

FAC	Facilities	LV	Leadership/Vision
FIN	Finance	STA	Student Achievement
GOV	Governance	TCH	Technology

THURSDAY, JUNE 11: SAN ANTONIO

8-9:15 A.M. GENERAL SESSION

General session and lunch will be automatically added to attendee's personal agenda based upon the registration fee selected.

IN-DEPTH SESSION: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

9:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

ET110 Boardsmanship Basics (TASB ISD) • Especially designed for first-year board members, this 2.5-hour workshop, presented by TASB staff, is an overview of the job of a school board member. Participants will discuss how to handle the personal and public demands that come with their new job. They'll also learn the board's basic roles and responsibilities and how their duties differ from those of the superintendent. • **N, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: BOARD PRESIDENTS

9:30-10:45 A.M.

ET120 Board Presidents' Duties They Never Tell You About (Board Presidents' Academy) •

The board president's mission is to ensure that the board, in cooperation with the superintendent, effectively performs its governance and oversight responsibilities. To do that, a president must know and understand not only his or her legally required duties, but also the often unvoiced expectations of fellow team members and the community as well. This session, presented by TASB staff, is especially useful for new board presidents or aspiring board presidents who want to be prepared for the job. Participants will receive information, tips, and resources to help them effectively complete the duties required of them. • **P, GOV**

— **AND** —

11 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

ET130 Building Team Relationships (Board Presidents' Academy) •

This session will provide board presidents with insight into how teams develop and suggest ways they, as team leaders, can set the stage to enable the board and superintendent team to build, support, and encourage positive working relationships. Especially designed for presidents in their role as liaison between team members and the superintendent, this session will be useful for anyone wanting to enhance team relationships. • **P, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

9:30-10:45 A.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

ET210 Moving on Up the Path to Excellence •

Bryan ISD (13,600 ADA) has been through a systemic reform process to move several low-performing secondary schools to excellence in student achievement. This systemic work required a united effort from every level of the district. It began with an aligned instruction program built on a collaborative culture focused on measurable results. Systems-thinking with a clear vision of where the district wanted to be allowed for dramatic improvements in student performance. This presentation will focus on strategies used at the district and campus level as teams of teachers and campus leaders became fully engaged in monitoring their goals and action plans. • **STA**

ET215 Are You Wasting Money in Your Technology Program? How Do You Know? •

The chief information/technology officer for *Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD (24,420 ADA)* will demonstrate processes and tools used in his district to cut costs, minimize waste, and maximize effectiveness of technology. • **FIN, TCH**

ET220 Bullying Prevention without Sacrificing Time for Teaching Academics •

Bullying is a growing epidemic in all school districts and among students of all cultures. Districts face a growing number of lawsuits for failure to prevent student bullying. But the question remains how can districts address bullying prevention without sacrificing time for teaching academics? *Longview ISD (7,425 ADA)* integrated a bullying prevention curriculum into its English language arts curriculum with the goal to systemically improve students' self-management skills while simultaneously improving students' reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and writing skills. • **STA**

ET225 Reenergize Your Community with “Board Buzz” •

Has your board-community relationship gone to sleep? Revitalize it with open dialogue and energetic communication between the two parties. Knowledge is power! Learn how *Kemp ISD (1,580 ADA)* created “board buzz” to build a powerful community relationship. • **LV**

ET230 Bonds 101: Class Is in Session •

Learn how districts propose a bond measure to meet facility needs. A trustee, a bond lawyer, and a bond underwriter share their true stories of how to get bonds passed to help meet district needs. • **FIN**

ET235 Influence and Power: What Is the Appropriate Balance? •

Once elected, do school board members exert influence or do they wield power? When it comes to getting things accomplished, which do you use? This session, presented by TASB staff, is designed to help participants gain confidence in their ability to achieve results through other people without losing friends or gaining enemies along the way. • **LV**

ET240 College and Work-Force Readiness •

Texas has increased requirements for attending four-year colleges, adopted college readiness standards, and funded programs intended to support students as they prepare for higher education and the work force. Have new laws and policies created barriers to success for some students?

TASB asked this question of many educators and state leaders. Hear a summary of what TASB learned about supporting students as they prepare for college and the work force. • **GOV**

ET245 Maintaining Your District’s Leaves and Absences Policy •

The leaves and absences policy is one of your district’s most important policies. TASB Policy Service recently released a *Starting Points (SP)* policy development toolkit to help districts maintain this policy. In this session, a Policy Service consultant will discuss common policy provisions addressed in *SP*, such as local leave and sick leave pools and banks. You’ll also learn why some material is more appropriate for administrative regulations than board policy. • **GOV**

ET250 Unemployment Costs and Your District: Do We Pay That? •

This session covers how unemployment benefits work in Texas and how they affect the costs to your district. Hear some war stories from the front lines on unemployment claims and what you can learn from them. • **FIN, GOV**

ET255 New School Construction: Applicable Environmental Regulatory Concerns •

TASB staff will provide an in-depth look at the numerous environmental regulations and issues and how they affect your district. This session will address all of the possible regulatory pitfalls that go along with building new facilities in your district. • **FAC, GOV**

— **AND** —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

11 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

ET310 African American Males Can Be Gifted Too! Identification, Identity, and Culture in the Texas P–12 Context •

Gifted African American males in elementary and secondary schools face the negative effects of definitions gone awry, identity development issues, and generational challenges experienced by this cohort. When these key component issues are not addressed in the classroom or through school-based policy, they often lead to the stagnation of achievement. This interactive session will allow participants to engage in discussions and offer solutions for school board members seeking to affect the success of gifted learners of color in general and gifted African American male learners in particular. • **GOV, STA**

ET315 School Facilities and Student Learning •

The Tarleton State University Research Laboratory on Educational Facilities will review plans to develop a clearinghouse on school facility research. Discussion will include current research and service initiatives designed to assist Texas public schools with various aspects of facility construction and renovation. Laboratory staff will present a research agenda designed to discover the effect of school facilities on student learning and state policy issues (e.g., 4x4) on school facility planning. • **FAC, FIN, GOV**

ET320 Internet Safety for Kids • Today's children are the first generation to grow up with the Internet as a staple of society. They travel through cyberspace frequently, often alone, and commonly are more computer-knowledgeable than their parents and other adults, which can create a potentially dangerous situation. Children must know about the hazards lurking in cyberspace and be empowered to respond appropriately. They deserve to have the freedom to exist in a safe cyberspace. • **GOV, TCH**

ET325 Effective Teacher Incentive Models: Evidence from the Texas Teacher Advancement Program •

The Texas Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) is a comprehensive research-based reform model that provides differentiated compensation for teachers and principals based on teachers' classroom performance and the academic performance of their students. TAP is dedicated to attracting, developing, motivating, and retaining high-caliber educators to raise achievement levels for all students. The program provides incentives for career advancement (multiple career paths), ongoing applied professional development, instructionally focused accountability, and performance pay to maximize effective teaching. • **GOV, STA**

ET330 Accountability: Past, Present, and Future • This session will review the accountability system that will operate for the 2008–09 school year and legislation affecting future testing and accountability systems. Any changes in the federal No Child Left Behind Act will be summarized as well. • **GOV**

ET335 Are Your Students Ready for College? •

Vertical teams of college and high school educators have developed college readiness standards for Texas public schools. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has approved these standards, and the State Board of Education is incorporating them into the revised Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. This session will help you

better understand the need for college readiness standards, the multistep process for developing and implementing the standards, and actions being taken now to ensure that Texas high schools have the tools and training resources to implement the standards. Also learn how Texas colleges and universities are working with public education in other ways to align expectations for college readiness and success. • **STA**

ET340 Strong Partnerships Ensure Corpus Christi ISD Students Reach Their Potential •

Learn how *Corpus Christi ISD (35,630 ADA)* students are reaching their potential through strong partnerships with the district, Del Mar College, Flint Hills Resources, and Workforce of the Coastal Bend. Discover how these entities are working together to respond to local industry needs (i.e., petrochemical) and, in so doing, preparing students with college readiness and skill sets required to become productive, contributing, wage-earning citizens of the community. • **LV, STA**

ET345 Board's Role in Adopting a Budget •

If the superintendent's job is to prepare the recommended budget, what exactly is the board supposed to do when it's time to adopt it? Discover ways to review budget information that will help the board determine whether district goals and priorities are being addressed. Learn useful questions to ask, look at helpful time lines to follow, and take home tools to keep the focus on the big picture of the district's budget rather than getting caught up in line items. (*Repeats Friday, 3 p.m., F655.*) • **FIN, GOV**

ET350 Resolving Grievances • Are you looking for new ways to resolve challenging grievances? A TASB Legal Services attorney reviews the recently revised TASB grievance policies and provides legal and practical advice for board members and administrators in applying these policies. A check list and sample script will allow you to handle grievances with confidence. • **GOV**

ET355 The Platinum Rule: A Valuable Tool for Working with People •

We all know the Golden Rule, but do you know the Platinum Rule? Learn some skills to help you work with people different from yourself—from board members and the superintendent to the parents of the children we serve. Understanding differences will help you be more successful in your interactions with others and will help you maximize the benefits those differences bring to your work, family, and other groups. (*Repeats Thursday, 3 p.m., ET655.*) • **LV**

ET360 Addressing the Changing Needs of a Diversifying Rural Community • Attracting, preparing, and retaining teachers equipped to meet the needs of English language learners is a challenge facing rural school districts. To address the shortage, *Fredericksburg ISD (2,660 ADA)* collaborated with Austin Community College and Texas Tech University to develop a fully transferable and seamless pathway to teacher certification. This P-16 partnership provides greater coherence and connection between a public school district, community college, university, and local community, and serves as a change agent fostering a college-going culture, while addressing the changing needs of a rural community experiencing rapid diversification in an underserved region of the state. • **STA**

LUNCH

12:15–1:15 P.M. (INCLUDED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE.)

IN-DEPTH SESSION: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

1:30–4:15 P.M.

ET410 District Policy Basics (TASB ISD) • Especially designed for first-year board members, this 2.5-hour session, presented by TASB staff, highlights the board's policymaking role that is so critical to good governance. Discuss how to institutionalize the board's priorities and preferences in policies that guide administration's activities, and practice making decisions about revising policies and implementing new policies. • **N, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

IN-DEPTH SESSION: BOARD PRESIDENTS

1:30–4:15 P.M.

ET420 Board Presidents' Legal Duties and Responsibilities (Board Presidents' Academy) • The good news is you've been elected school board president. The bad news is there's a lot to learn! Join a TASB attorney who will identify key legal duties and offer practical tips to help you succeed in your leadership role. • **P, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

1:30–2:45 P.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

ET510 School Board Café Conversations (Small Districts) • Join board members from comparable-size districts for a chat at the local café. During this session, board members will sit together and explore common challenges, share collective wisdom, and gain insight on topics of shared concern. Seating is limited in the café. *This session is designated for districts with student populations of up to 999.* • **GOV, LV**

ET515 Equity Traps and Skills: What Prevents Us from Creating High-Achieving Schools for ALL Students; What Can We Do about It • This session focuses on eight years of research on what prevents teachers, schools, and districts from being successful with all students, particularly African Americans and Latinos and those students living in poverty. The session will be presented by a researcher who has more than 25 years of experience as a public school teacher and administrator and university professor. • **LV, STA**

ET520 Kemp ISD: A District with a Strong "H.E.A.R.T. B.E.A.T." • *Kemp ISD (1,580 ADA)* is finishing its fifth year with TBSI. This way of life has changed the complexion of a campus and helps students monitor self-control and behavior. Let us show you how it positively affected TAKS scores. Learn how the board can support this innovative program and how teamwork between the board and teachers can help students achieve at higher levels. • **STA**

ET525 Grant Dollars that Make the Difference for Parents, Students, and Teachers • The question asked by all school administrators is how much does it cost and where do I get the money? Grant dollars are available for almost any project a district wants to pursue. Writing grants is an art and a science, but the most important factor is knowing which programs will fund which projects. There are three key funding sources every district should monitor constantly. *West Oso ISD (1,930 ADA)*, which does not have a grant writer but averages \$2.5 million in additional grant money, will share its success in acquiring grant dollars. The extra funds have helped reduce the dropout rate, provide quality summer and after-school programs, and enhance parental involvement programs. • **FIN**

ET530 Implementing D.A.T.E. and TEEG: Lessons Learned from the Field • The University of Texas System Administration is partnering with the Texas Education Agency to provide technical assistance to support the *Texas Educator Excellence Grant (TEEG) program*. The program helps schools and districts develop performance award plans. Workshops provide information on ways to structure an effective and meaningful awards system; research-based evidence on elements of an effective awards program; assessing data capacity and building information technology capacity to support the program at the local level; calculation of student gains/value-added modeling; and stakeholder engagement and communication. This session will provide targeted information addressing these issues and discuss program implementation, change management, and sustainability. • **FIN, GOV**

ET535 Selecting and Working with Your School Attorney • School district attorneys are advisers and advocates for the school board. Selecting an attorney is not as simple as choosing one with a low hourly rate. Board members should know what they can expect from their attorney. School districts often address disputes involving employee terminations, grievances, students, and other issues unique to schools. Two experienced attorneys will discuss effective use of the district's attorney to ensure that liability is minimized and the board is well served. • **GOV**

ET540 District Emergency Management: What Every Trustee Should Know • This session, presented by TASB staff, is a must for all trustees, no matter how experienced they are. It will give attendees an in-depth knowledge of what is required of Texas school districts related to emergency management planning. Discussion will focus on implementing legislation, mandatory statutory requirements, available emergency management planning resources, and evaluating where your district stands in the planning process. (*Repeats Friday, 9:30 a.m., F255.*) • **GOV**

ET545 Establishing Community Support for Schools in Your Town • Find out how to foster support from parents, nonparents, local media, and the business sector. Turn complainers into champions. Learn how community relations, school-business partnerships, and special events can help create dedicated local proponents for public schools. • **LV**

ET550 Why Boards Matter • Oversight is a key role for all boards. But in and of itself, oversight is seldom considered compelling work. Find out how boards can do interesting, even compelling, work while providing leadership for the district without straying outside

their role. (*This session complements ET635, Why Board Conversations Matter, Thursday, 3 p.m.*) • **GOV**

ET555 THECB Outreach: Creating a College-Going Culture for All Texans • The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has an entire division devoted to P–16 activities through which colleges and universities work with school districts to increase college-going rates. The P–16 Outreach department specializes in grant programs that assist students with the many processes required in applying for college and financial aid. Hear about the many successful programs going on throughout the state. • **STA**

ET560 Net-Zero Energy Learning Environments: Believable, Achievable, and Necessary • With an uncertain economic forecast looming large, school systems are looking for creative ways to reduce expenditures. Costs to operate facilities are second only to that of personnel, but facilities have comparatively little effect on teaching and learning. Imagine what you could do with the money saved by reducing utility consumption. This session will present a variety of net-zero energy projects and review the current technologies and design strategies making net-zero energy schools, like Richardsville Elementary School in Kentucky, a reality for districts across the country. • **FAC, FIN**

— **AND** —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES 3–4:15 P.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

ET610 School Board Café Conversations (Small to Mid-Size Districts) • Join board members from comparable-size districts for a chat at the local café. During this session, board members will sit together and explore common challenges, share collective wisdom, and gain insight on topics of shared concern. Seating is limited in the café. *This session is designated for districts with student populations of 1,000–2,499.* • **GOV, LV**

ET615 Eliminating the Dropout Rate • *West Oso ISD's High School had a 10.1-percent dropout rate for the 2005–06 academic year. The district took an aggressive approach to address a major stumbling block for Hispanic students. Faculty and administrators at the high school analyzed the causes, created an action plan, and identified key stakeholders who could assist with the plan's implementation, which helped reduce the dropout rate to 3.1 percent in one year. Presenters will share their plan and discuss how parents were key to the plan's success.* • **STA**

ET620 Visions of 21st Century Learning • Want to see and hear about the latest research and development happening in education and technology? Learn about the latest research in technology-infused learning, trends shaping the future of teaching and learning, and ways schools can take advantage of these findings and trends. • **LV, TCH**

ET625 Maximizing Resources and Stretching M&O Dollars • With the current school funding environment, districts must maximize operational efficiency to get the most of every resource. Achieving this lofty goal requires innovative policies and aggressive management. One unconventional avenue pursued by *Rockdale ISD* was a comprehensive maintenance and operations (M&O) audit. This session will equip other districts with valuable insight into their own M&O potential. • **FIN, GOV**

ET630 Who's on F.I.R.S.T.? (Small Districts) • Join *Nordheim ISD (73 ADA)* in a discussion of the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (F.I.R.S.T.) and how this *very small 1A district* fights to comply with F.I.R.S.T.'s ever-increasing standards. • **FIN, GOV**

ET635 Why Board Conversations Matter • After their election, board members quickly discover that talking about the wrong things never leads to the right results. And yet, the structural dynamics of a school board often lead to stalled or ineffective conversations at the board table. Find out how to have conversations that move the organization forward despite structural challenges that confront every school board. (*This session is a good follow up to ET550, Why Boards Matter, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.*) • **GOV**

ET640 What Board Members Should Know about Special Education Law • Special education is governed by a complex mixture of federal and state law. These laws, which apply to students with disabilities, set standards and procedures that frequently lead to costly disputes and/or litigation. This presentation will focus on what school board members should know to be proactive about providing appropriate services and to avoid disputes. • **GOV**

ET645 Going Green: Benefits of a High Performance School • Explore the strategies for designing and *building a high performance school that won't break the bank*. The session will share the benefits of high performance schools as they relate to student achievement and review techniques to reduce operating costs and improve energy efficiency. (*Repeats Friday, 1:30 p.m., F560.*) • **FAC, FIN**

ET650 Independent Contractor or Employee? • Texas school districts frequently must decide how to fill positions or complete projects using independent contractors instead of regular full-time employees. Districts are being audited by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for incorrectly classifying individuals as independent contractors when they should be paid as employees. Hear how a school district survived an IRS audit and what districts can do to ensure compliance with IRS regulations. • **GOV**

ET655 The Platinum Rule: A Valuable Tool for Working with People
(*See descriptor Thursday, 11 a.m., ET355.*)

ET660 Is Your District Staffed Properly? • Personnel costs consume more than 80 percent of your district's operating budget. Controlling these costs requires an understanding of the staffing patterns your district really needs compared to the number and types of employees you actually have. Examine how to evaluate your district's staffing, what to look for, and possible solutions to the problems. Topics will include identifying employee categories to review and where to find data, using formulas to guide staffing, examining the effect of different types of secondary class schedules on personnel needs, and developing accurate budget forecasts. • **GOV, FIN**

**EXTENDED EVENING SESSION FOR TASB ISD
CERTIFICATION: NEW BOARD MEMBERS**
4:30–7 P.M.

ET710 Teamwork Basics (TASB ISD) • Especially designed for first-year board members, this 2.5-hour session includes a look at why it is important for trustees to act as a board rather than as individuals, what makes a team effective, and how each member can contribute to that success. Key team procedures, communication strategies, and ethical behavior are explored as ways to help new board members gain trust and get things accomplished quicker. • **N, GOV**

FRIDAY, JUNE 12: SAN ANTONIO

8–9:15 A.M. GENERAL SESSION

General session and lunch will be automatically added to attendee's personal agenda based upon the registration fee selected.

IN-DEPTH SESSION: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

9:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

F110 District Planning and Accountability Basics (TASB ISD) • Especially designed for first-year board members, this 2.5-hour session includes an overview of the state accountability system, key considerations for developing local accountability, state requirements for district planning, and the board's role in incorporating these requirements into an effective, comprehensive district-planning system. • **N, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

IN-DEPTH SESSION: BOARD PRESIDENTS

9:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

F130 Meeting Preparation Essentials (Board Presidents' Academy) • Experienced board presidents know the key to conducting productive meetings is adequate preparation. This session, presented by TASB staff, will introduce two important tools for that preparation: an agenda calendar and a customizable background information form for agenda items. We'll also provide presidents with tips for reviewing draft agendas. Especially designed to assist new board presidents, even experienced board presidents will find the tips and tools valuable. • **P, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

9:30 – 10:45 A.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

F210 Achievement Gap: More than Just a Number • This session, presented by the *Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members and the Mexican American School Board Association*, is an analysis of district and state data to show whether the achievement gap in Texas is being narrowed. It will identify the major factors causing the achievement gap—including ethnicity, economics, social, and other factors—and effective solutions to overcome them. • **LV, STA**

F215 The Changing Face of School PR • School public relations (PR) has changed over the past few years. Why is it important to keep your edge when it comes to spinning the truth about your district? Using topical examples, participants will be led through a quick study

on establishing communication goals, identifying target markets, and understanding how the media influences the public's perspective on education. Techniques will be presented to prove that a sound communication strategy can be implemented in any size district. • **GOV**

F220 Educating Immigrant English Language Learners in 21st Century Schools • Educators face seemingly insurmountable obstacles in meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. These are students who, for the most part, are the most vulnerable and at risk of school failure. The huge enrollment surge over the past two decades, especially of poor and non-English-speaking immigrant children coupled with a national movement toward greater school accountability, has exacerbated the challenge and placed even greater pressure on the schools. Who are these children and adolescent learners? What are their language and cultural attributes and needs? This session, presented by *Denton ISD (19,537 ADA)*, addresses these questions and selected school responses. • **STA**

F225 Improve Board Relations by Using Problem-Solving Styles • One of the reasons you ran for the board was to be able to work harmoniously and perform in a group setting for the benefit of the schoolchildren in your district. Once there, perhaps the working relationship wasn't as fun and congenial as you expected it to be. You become frustrated because you can't accomplish your goals. Why? It may be due to a difference in problem-solving style, which is inherent and does not change. We will explore your board's thinking style and its effect on board relations. • **GOV**

F230 Tools of the Trade for Trustees • Which trustee tools are tried and true? Which ones warrant warranties? Which are most significant? Trusting? Teaming? Thinking? Talking? Timing? Troubleshooting? Telescoping? Trying? Join *Rockwall ISD (11,643 ADA)* in this discussion about tools of the trade for trustees. • **GOV**

F235 Setting Superintendent Performance Goals • District goals are the board's vehicle for setting direction for the district, and related goals for the superintendent are one of the board's best tools for holding district staff accountable for moving the district in the desired direction. This session focuses on formulating goals with your superintendent—related to district goals—for next year's superintendent evaluation. Sample superintendent evaluation goals statements will be examined and discussed for their usefulness in the evaluation process. • **GOV**

F240 Closed Meetings under OMA • Learn about the basics of the Texas Open Meetings Act (OMA) with a focus on closed-meeting topics and procedures. A TASB Legal Services attorney will give an overview of laws affecting open and closed meetings, as well as practical advice for conducting closed meetings in your district. *This presentation has been approved by the Texas Attorney General and satisfies the OMA training requirement found in Texas Government Code, Section 551.005.* • **GOV**

F245 The Importance of Organizational Beliefs • An organization needs direction to successfully move forward. It is the leadership's job to provide that direction by communicating the organization's purpose. One important element of the purpose is the organization's beliefs. During this session, participants will learn the importance of organizational beliefs and how this set of tenets is developed and used to maintain a shared focus throughout the school district. • **LV**

F250 Prepared and Informed • Productive meetings require effective preparation. School districts often implement electronic agenda preparation as a productivity tool and means of reducing printing costs. Discover how hundreds of Texas districts use TASB BoardBook® to prepare for meetings and to keep their communities informed. Examine the tools available to trustees and administrators and see how districts can implement electronic agenda preparation. • **GOV**

F255 District Emergency Management: What Every Trustee Should Know
(See descriptor Thursday, 1:30 p.m., **ET540**.)

F260 Mentoring and Collaboration: Outcomes for Teacher Retention and Student Achievement • Recent research indicates that the more opportunities teachers have to collaborate with their colleagues in making important school decisions, the more their students learn, as indicated by high-stakes assessments. Beginning teachers gain access to resources, expertise, and support through interactions with more experienced educators, and more experienced teachers can place important expectations on the beginners. These resources represent forms of social capital that can positively affect new teacher retention, teacher efficacy, and ultimately student learning. Findings from studies of teacher collaboration and mentoring in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana will be discussed, along with the implications of this research for school leaders. • **STA**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

11 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

F310 The Final Frontier for Student Achievement: Father and Family Involvement • Schools are doing everything in their power to help kids reach a higher level of academic success. There is only so much time and energy that can be put into those efforts. We must find ways to get a better return on our investment to gain higher levels of academic success. Making parents more of a partner is the next and last frontier in improving that success. Discover ways to make your parent involvement programs DIRECTLY affect achievement indicators and give you more bang for your buck. • **LV, STA**

F315 Understanding Students from Poverty • Based on 30 years of research by Ruby Payne, this presentation will discuss key points to understanding students from poverty; the classes of the economic system and the effect to beliefs and values; and the five registers of language found in all languages that affect learning and vocabulary. • **STA**

F320 Bexar County School Board Coalition and San Antonio ISD • Texas districts face the challenge of overcoming or correcting misquoted or misstated information about their schools and public education. The Bexar County School Board Coalition, a collaboration of 17 school districts in San Antonio and the surrounding area, is fighting back against negative press and misinformation by working together to tell the true story of their districts' histories and missions and to compare data analysis of coalition schools to that of other Texas and U.S. cities. The Coalition is compiling district facts into a reference resource in hopes of alleviating some of the misstated information. This presentation will talk about the process, share the data, and discuss the effect this effort is having. • **LV**

F325 Community Education: Your Ticket to Tomorrow • Looking for something new, exciting, and profitable? A community education program just might be the ticket. Learn how to create a program, increase revenue for your district, and promote learning for a lifetime in your community. *Vidor ISD (4,531 ADA)* presents valuable tips on after-school programs, summer camps, adult education, community involvement, and certification programs, as well as public relations. • **LV**

— AND —

F330 Managing Social Media before It Manages You • Podcasts, blogs, wikis, and texting: Most students use these social media tools every day, and our public is beginning to embrace them as well. In a world of universal accessibility, can you afford to communicate through only traditional media? How do you respond to all of these new media tools? A school public relations veteran will guide you gently through the turbulent waters of instant communications. You will leave this session with your head held high knowing that the new media can really be on your side. • **GOV, TCH**

F335 School Construction Costs: A Roller Coaster Ride • Explore the recent economy's effect on school construction costs. Recent years have been very inflationary, but the trend seems to be coming to an end, or is this a just a temporary condition? Gain insight into today's school construction market and gather tips on how to handle projects your district will begin in the next 12 to 18 months. • **FAC, FIN**

F340 A Social Network Perspective on the Improvement of Instructional Practice and Collective Efficacy in Schools • Presenters will show links across their studies of collective efficacy, instructional practice, and social networks to discuss effective ways of diffusing knowledge about school reform. Recent research indicates that the more teachers apply differentiated instructional practice the more likely their schools are to be characterized by high levels of collective efficacy, or a sense of confidence that they can effectively educate all of their students. In addition, related research indicates that the smaller the proportion of subgroups responsible for providing knowledge of how to implement a reform, the greater the schoolwide implementation of the reforms will be. Presenters will show how school leaders can apply knowledge about social networks to improve instruction and develop schools characterized by strong beliefs in the faculty's capability to successfully educate the students in their charge. • **STA**

F345 Information, Please! • One of the most common sources of tension between board members and superintendents is the flow of information. Are information flow issues a problem or the symptom of another problem? TASB staff will explore ways to untangle the knots that boards and superintendents tie themselves into over information. (*Repeats Saturday, 10 a.m., S340.*) • **GOV**

F350 To Pray or Not to Pray • The law concerning religious expression in public schools is in constant motion. This presentation addresses the legal issues and consideration school districts must face whenever religious expression is conducted in public schools, whether by students, employees/officials, or outside organizations. Presenters will first address the constitutional foundations in this area and give an update on the most recent court decisions. • **GOV**

F355 The Superintendent/CEO Search Process • TASB's Executive Search Services staff will present elements of the search process. Included will be the board's involvement, consultant responsibilities, advantages of using an external consultant, and board member perspectives. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions about the search process. • **GOV**

F360 Conversations across the Fence: The Ongoing Process of Superintendent Evaluation • Have you been searching for a way to do *superintendent evaluation as an ongoing process* throughout the year rather than a one-shot annual effort? For years, state law has required that boards do at least one formative evaluation of their superintendent each year. TASB staff will address why this is an important function of the board and offer suggestions for how boards can use this tool to improve student achievement. • **GOV**

LUNCH

12:15–1:15 P.M. (*INCLUDED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE.*)

IN-DEPTH SESSION: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

1:30–4:15 P.M.

F410 School Law Basics (TASB ISD) • Especially designed for first-year board members, this 2.5-hour session with TASB attorneys highlights fundamentals of school law with particular attention given to recognizing compliance with open meetings and conflict-of-interest laws. The session also will review the basics new trustees need to know about personnel contracts and the board's role in employment issues, such as hiring, firing, compensation, and evaluation. • **N, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

IN-DEPTH SESSION: BOARD PRESIDENTS

1:30–4:15 P.M.

F420 Introduction to Parliamentary

Procedure • When used appropriately, parliamentary procedure can help your board meetings run more efficiently, but knowing every detail of *Robert's Rules of Order* isn't necessary. TASB staff will cover the basic rules that apply to boards, review the most commonly used motions, and explain common misunderstandings about the rules. *This session is a great overview for new board presidents and new board members alike.* • **P, GOV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

IN-DEPTH SESSION: ALL AUDIENCES

1:30–4:15 P.M.

F430 Increasing Your Personal Influence as an Education Leader (MBTI)

• Increase your ability as a school leader and exert a more positive influence in your organization. Participants identify their personal preferences and styles for interpersonal communication, problem solving, and teamwork. The popular Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is the foundation for this experiential workshop and provides the vehicle and structure for exploring ways to strengthen personal influence. • **LV**

— — — — — **OR** — — — — —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

1:30–2:45 P.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

F510 School Board Café Conversations (Mid-Size Districts)

• Join board members from comparable-size districts for a chat at the local café. During this session, board members will sit together and explore common challenges, share collective wisdom, and gain insight on topics of shared concern. Seating is limited in the café. *This session is designated for districts with student populations of 2,500–9,999.* • **GOV, LV**

F515 No-Tears Campus Consolidation and Realignment

• *Sinton ISD (1,949 ADA)* began the process of consolidation and realignment in October 2007. The academic benefits in the transition—from departmental school organization to academic teaming

and financial savings from eliminating several duplicate positions—would be significant. However, change is difficult. The district began a very effective plan to inform and educate all stakeholders in the process. This session will help other districts looking to consolidate do so without shedding any tears. • **FAC, FIN**

F520 Creating a Compelling Vision for

Teacher Excellence • Creating a compelling *vision for teacher excellence* is a challenge. Learn how *Canton ISD (1,842 ADA)* developed a vision that challenges teachers to create a successful learning environment around four guiding principles: respect, high expectations, positive attitudes, and love for all students. • **LV, STA**

F525 Creating a Unified and Powerful Voice to Transform Education

• Trustees for Texas is a new coalition of public school board members who want to inform their communities about the need to transform public education in our state. The coalition will partner with TASB, TASA, The Visioning Institute, and others to create grassroots community conversations. Learn how to connect, inform, and influence others to create a new vision for public education. • **LV**

F530 Leading the Followers: A New Way to Look at Leadership

• We're all familiar with the childhood game Follow the Leader. Someone—usually the most popular, spoiled, or demanding kid—was declared leader and everyone obediently followed along, copying the leader's actions. As a school board trustee, you may consider yourself a leader, but no one is likely to just blindly follow you. Review the role of trustees as leaders and how leading may not be a right granted upon election but a privilege to be earned. • **LV**

F535 Pain-Free Superintendent Evaluation: 10 Steps to Improved Performance

• One of the most important functions of a school board is the superintendent evaluation. *Pflugerville ISD (19,484 ADA)* board members, dissatisfied with the existing generic superintendent evaluation tools, embarked on a journey, beginning in 2005, to develop a performance-based evaluation instrument linked to the district's yearly goals and objectives. This session will provide guidance and a sample instrument that board members can use to begin the process of developing their own unique performance tool. • **GOV**

F540 Youth Leadership Critical for ALL

Students • Supporting a well-rounded curriculum for students is critical to having successful graduates. All students need to experience success. This session, presented by *Taboka ISD (564 ADA)* and the Texas Family, Career, and Community Leaders Association (TFCCLA), will demonstrate how youth leadership activities can provide all students with the opportunity to succeed while learning to strengthen their family, explore careers, and become actively involved in their communities. • **STA**

F545 Getting Dads through the Door: Realistic and Relevant Father Involvement

• Many programs want to work with fathers but aren't sure how to do so effectively or even "get a hold" of them. Learn how to bring fathers into your programs and what to do with them once they come through the door. Discover how to build your own effective program without having to buy expensive curricula that may not fit your needs. This fun, interactive workshop will show you how to effectively involve fathers in their child's education to improve their education and social outcomes. • **STA**

F550 Balancing Board Leadership with Community Representation

• School board members are directed by statute to govern as a body corporate. Yet each individual member must face the personal challenge of reelection in an often overtly political environment. High-quality boards are about the full board and the organization as a whole. Reelection is an individual journey. How do you successfully navigate this difficult process in a way that is true to the board, the district, and yourself? Discuss this challenging area of board life. • **GOV**

F555 Planning and Conducting Your Own Superintendent/CEO Search

• Almost half of all districts that hire a new superintendent in any given year will conduct their own search. These boards require a thorough understanding of the steps in this complex process. TASB staff will discuss establishing the desired qualifications and characteristics for a new CEO, setting up and conducting a legitimate interview process, and understanding the importance of confidentiality to the success of the search. • **GOV**

F560 Going Green: Benefits of a High Performance School

(See descriptor *Thursday, 3 p.m., ET645.*)

— **AND** —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

3-4:15 P.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

F610 Students, Please Turn Your Cell Phones ON!

• Participate in this interactive session where the cell phone will be used to look up information by text messaging, podcasts will be set up for project work, and attendees will be polled for their understanding of the material presented using their cell phones. Explore other aspects of the cell phone when used as a learning tool. Best practices will be discussed based on what is happening in classrooms in Texas today. (*Repeats Saturday, 10 a.m., S345.*) • **STA, TCH**

F615 Risk Management from A to Z

• This session will provide board members of all experience levels with fundamental risk management information. Risk management is an ongoing process of identifying and dealing with the exposures and risks that school districts face. Gain a better understanding and broader perspective of risk management and how specific types of coverage address and help to mitigate exposure, risk, and financial loss to the district. • **GOV**

F620 Putting the "Aye" in T.E.A.M.

• Establishing and preserving a harmonious environment is a key component of positive team interaction. In every situation, however, differing opinions and personalities can distance team members and even cause overt conflict. This session challenges board members and superintendents to embrace differences, value divergent opinions, and capitalize on the sum of the collective attributes of their "Team of 8." • **GOV**

F625 School Design Matters

• School design DOES matter. Site selection, school size, flexible use, and sustainable features—all of these and more can contribute to increased learning and greater community involvement in and commitment to our schools. Hear how one district, using a team of district personnel, architects, and designers, engaged in some out-of-the-box thinking to add value—for the district and the community—to a proposed building project. • **LV, FAC**

F630 Finding and Keeping Teachers in Small Rural Districts

• Small rural districts need to be creative and strategic about finding and keeping good teachers in their community. A panel of superintendents from small districts will share their thoughts and experience on what attracts and keeps good teachers and how smaller districts can fare better in the competitive environment of teacher recruiting. (*Repeats Saturday, 8:30 a.m., S250.*) • **FIN, GOV, STA**

F635 Effective Practices for Local

Orientations • Can a required local orientation really help new board members be more productive from the start? Yes! This session will help you design and conduct an effective local orientation to get new board members off on the right foot quickly. Learn what's required and what has worked well in other districts. Share ideas for helping new board members even beyond the local orientation. You'll leave with a suggested orientation outline and a list of useful resources for new board members. • **LV**

F640 Understanding the Electricity Marketplace •

Since deregulation opened up the electricity marketplace for competition, school districts have faced a difficult task in understanding the electricity market, contracts and terms, and procurement strategies. Gaining the proper knowledge may assist districts in making an educated decision to meet their electricity needs. • **GOV, FIN**

F645 Starting out Right with Your New Superintendent/CEO •

The transition process can be a well-defined procedure with all parties informed, or it can be something more chaotic. The considerations in planning the transition process include the relationship between the board-superintendent, superintendent-staff, and superintendent-community. TASB Executive Search Services staff will present a plan that integrates all elements in the process. • **GOV**

F650 School Finance Update for 2009 •

Review the current school finance system and legislation from the 81st Legislative Session that will affect school funding this year and the next biennium. Topics will include equity and adequacy results from the 81st Session, revenue targets, formula finance, facilities funding, and funding for special programs. (*Repeats Saturday, 10 a.m.*)

S335. • **FIN, GOV**

F655 Board's Role in Adopting a Budget

(*See descriptor Thursday, 11 a.m., ET345.*)

SATURDAY, JUNE 13: SAN ANTONIO

IN-DEPTH SESSION: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

8:30-11:15 A.M.

S110 School Budget and Finance Basics

(*TASB ISD*) • Especially designed for first-year board

members, this 2.5-hour session, presented by TASB staff, includes a look at the board's role in overseeing district finances. Learn how the state's public school finance system affects budget decisions, steps in the district budget cycle, and key decision points for board members in adopting the district's budget. • **N, FIN, GOV**

OR

BREAKOUT SESSION: BOARD PRESIDENTS

8:30-9:45 A.M.

S130 Board Presidents' Roundtable • This session will provide board presidents an opportunity to seek advice from experienced board presidents on a variety of topics for which they are responsible. Discussion will center on topics of most immediate concern to presidents in the audience. *Seating is limited in the Café.* • **P, GOV, LV**

OR

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES

8:30-9:45 A.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)

S210 Closing the Achievement Gap through Leadership and Vision •

Using a rapid-change model, *Splendora ISD (3,065 ADA)* has implemented needed districtwide initiatives to close the achievement gap between majority and minority students while saving money and adding to the fund balance. Presenters will share examples of the importance of leadership in the academic improvement effort and how focused leadership can result in dramatic gains while still reducing cost and adding money to the fund balance. The critical role of instructional leadership from both school board members and superintendents will be discussed in depth. • **STA**

S215 Deportation Response Action Plan for Public Schools •

Garland ISD (53,268 ADA) administrators have put together an action plan to address the needs of students in case their parents are deported. A recent article in the *Dallas Morning News* stated that, according to federal immigration officials in Dallas, arrests of illegal immigrants in north Texas increased 21 percent in the last fiscal year. The district Deportation Response Committee has coordinated a response among district service providers and the community. Committee members will share a brief history of how the group came together and the rationale for planned actions. • **GOV**

S220 School Board Café Conversations (Mid-Size to Large Districts) • Join board members from comparable-size districts for a chat at the local café. During this session, board members will sit together and explore common challenges, share collective wisdom, and gain insight on topics of shared concern. Seating is limited in the café. *This session is designated for districts with student populations of 10,000 and up.* • **GOV, LV**

S225 A Stroll Down the Boardwalk • Ever wonder how school boards in other states go about their work? What are the common concerns? Which have term limits? Who gets paid? Do all collect CEC numbers? Which use a system of appointment versus an election? Explore similarities and differences among Texas school boards and colleagues in other states. Discover the answers to these and other points of comparison. Use of audience response technology will allow you to test your impressions with the facts. • **GOV**

S230 Are You Ready for the “Stimulus?” • Do NOT miss this one! Review the K–12 opportunities available to Texas by category, probability, and opportunity. There is very real money being spent in public education. Know where it is and how to get to it. Know which programs will use existing processes and which ones will likely involve some new process. Find out how to secure and spend the money to meet the accountability guidelines. • **FIN, GOV**

S235 How to Attract Positive Media for Your District • School districts are recognizing the important role that public relations can play in creating a positive buzz in their community and with parents and key stakeholders. Gain a better understanding of the media and its purpose and functions. Learn how to generate positive press for your district. Examine the ever-changing landscape of school communications. • **LV**

S240 Planning for the Future • Learn how strategic planning can increase participation in and commitment to excellence in education while providing a road map for the future. Hear how a Texas school district reaped the rewards of stepping up to the challenge of strategic planning. • **GOV, LV**

S245 Is Your District’s M&O Department Adequately Staffed? • Many factors affect maintenance and operations (M&O) staffing levels, including new building additions, existing building renovations, campus consolidations, and budget constraints. Labor unitization

and standardization take into account known standard cleaning times and facility specifications. Using the labor unitization staffing method will help achieve effective and efficient custodial, grounds, and maintenance department related schedules and assignments. Gather the right kind of information to support important administrative decisions, including staffing and budgeting. • **FAC, FIN**

S250 Finding and Keeping Teachers in Small Rural Districts
(See descriptor Friday, 3 p.m., **F630**.)

— **AND** —

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ALL AUDIENCES **10–11:15 A.M. (CHOOSE ONE.)**

S310 Affecting Remediation of Ineffective Employees • Effective personnel management is one of the most important responsibilities of district leadership. Few ISDs have goals and expectations for developing poor-performing employees. Moreover, few districts have taken time to objectively define employee effectiveness and ineffectiveness. Join district leaders as they discuss personnel management philosophies and strategies that have made *Angleton ISD (5,876 ADA)* an exceptionally high-performing district. Special emphasis will be placed on the responsibility of board members in personnel management. • **GOV**

S315 Research-Based Secrets for Creating Highly Successful Diverse Districts • What are the characteristics of highly successful schools and districts serving largely low-income, African American, and Hispanic students in urban, small city, and suburban settings? This session describes and explains the strategies that these schools and districts employ to create success. The presenter has spent more than 10 years as a university researcher of education leadership at The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University. • **LV, STA**

S320 Texas State Honor Board: Why not Mine? • Ever wondered what qualities make a state-recognized Honor Board? You know, the boards that get special recognition at the annual TASB/TASA Convention as Board of the Year? Attend this interactive session to compare your perceptions of what makes an Honor Board with the survey results collected from past winners. You might be surprised by which factors are common and which differences surface. By participating with audience response technology, you will be able to record your perceptions and compare them with survey data. • **LV, GOV**

S325 A Dangerous “Game” • This session will provide awareness and information about “The Choking Game.” Attendees will learn what signs and symptoms to look for in uncovering this dangerous reality. • **GOV**

S330 Improving STEM Teacher Quality with Texas Regional Collaboratives • High-quality and engaging elementary science instruction is a challenge faced by all districts. The Texas Regional Collaboratives (TRC) is a statewide P–12 science/math teacher professional development program that has helped *Blooming Grove* (824 ADA) and *Hutto* (4,144 ADA) ISDs meet that challenge and increase science TAKS achievement. Learn how they leveraged e-sources available through TRC to improve teacher content knowledge and how your district can participate in this award-winning partnership network. • **ST**

S335 School Finance Update for 2009
(See descriptor Friday, 3 p.m., **F650**.)

S340 Information, Please!
(See descriptor Friday, 11 a.m., **F345**.)

S345 Students, Please Turn Your Cell Phones ON!
(See descriptor Friday, 3 p.m., **F610**.)

S350 Paving the Way for PreK: Legislative Update on the State of PreK in Texas • Get an overview of the most recent legislative actions and activities affecting the implementation of quality services in Texas public schools. An overview and update of the national prekindergarten perspective also will be provided. • **GOV**