

# Leadership Team Times

January 2012

Nine copies of this publication will be mailed monthly to the superintendent secretary to be included in the board packets.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we start the new year, if you have feature ideas, want to brag about something your district is doing, or want to share information with your fellow board members, now is a great time to do it. Contact Lisa Carothers Basaldua at [lisa.carothers@tasb.org](mailto:lisa.carothers@tasb.org).

The beginning of the year also is a good time to update your TASB membership records, especially if your district held November elections or changed the length of board member terms. Update records through myTASB, the Association's password-protected area of [tasb.org](http://tasb.org), or contact Anisa Pope, **800.580.8272**, extension 6120.

## WINTER GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SEMINAR NEWS

As your calendar begins to fill up in the new year, save February 16–18 for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Governance and Legal Seminar (WGLS). The conference offers focused training for both new and experienced board members and a strand of sessions designed to address the needs of small and rural districts.

Returning to the program this year is the always interesting student panel, with this year's panel members receiving scholarship monies for their participation. Also returning is "A Night at the Movies." This year's feature will be *The Finland Phenomenon: Inside the World's Most Surprising School System*.

This training opportunity takes place in Corpus Christi and is free for board members and administrators of active TASB members. Go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) for complete program, registration, and housing details.

## TED TALKS: IS IT NET INCOME OR INCOME INEQUALITY THAT HAMPERS PUBLIC EDUCATION?

British sociologist Richard Wilkinson suggests that income inequality within a community is a greater predictor of social problems than is net income. Poorer communities in which the disparity in wealth among its members is smaller have fewer of the kind of social problems that place a burden on the education system than do wealthier communities in which income disparity is greater. Wilkinson's argument might have interesting implications for how districts approach some of these problems in the future.

Wilkinson's argument is presented in a recent TED Talk. TED Talks is a series of 15–20 minute presentations by some of the world's most innovative thinkers, putting forth ideas that can change the way we think about many things. Many of the talks are directly related to education policy and practice; almost all can generate interesting applications to public schools.



## Training & Events

JANUARY: SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

WINTER GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SEMINAR (WGLS): February 16–18, Corpus Christi

GRASSROOTS MEETINGS: January–March

SUPERINTENDENT SECRETARY CONFERENCE: February 23–24, Austin

SPRING WORKSHOPS: March–May

2012 TASA/TASB CONVENTION: September 28–30, Austin

If you just completed your superintendent evaluation, now is a good time to consider adjustments to the instrument and planning calendar for next year. Resources at [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).

For a complete list of training and events, or to access more details on any of the information referenced in this issue, go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).



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If you are not familiar with TED Talks, it's worth taking a look at [ted.com](http://ted.com) where you can find hundreds of interesting, short video presentations by exciting thinkers. Take a look at talks by Wilkinson, Sir Ken Robinson, or Salman Kahn. You are certain to be stimulated in ways that will make your board service seem more and more exciting as well as crucial for the future of your community.

## TIMELY RESOURCES

The *New Board Member Leadership to GO Package* includes three publications geared toward getting new board members up to speed quickly. The *Board Presidents' Leadership to GO Package* provides board presidents with tools to effectively lead their team. Ask your superintendent's secretary about the publication order form included in this month's newsletter packet, or go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) for a complete list of resources.

The Online Learning Center also has a number of courses available for new and experienced board members and board candidates. Go to [onlinelearning.tasb.org](http://onlinelearning.tasb.org) for details.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

*by Kay Douglas, LTS senior consultant*

As a result of legislative changes, more and more districts are being confronted with the decision of changing from May to November elections. Once that change has been made, there are other changes that also must be considered. The first involves training for newly elected board members. By law, the district must provide orientation to new board members within 60 days of being elected or appointed to office. The board should not only look at when that should be scheduled but also at the content for that session.

With all of the changes districts face in coming months, this would be a great time to ask what would help your newly elected colleagues best be prepared to hit the ground running and be productive. For other training required for new board members, those elected in May usually choose to attend Summer Leadership Institute the following month in either San Antonio or Fort Worth. Now, with November elections, districts might want to consider sending new board members to the Winter Governance and Legal Seminar in Corpus Christi, February 16–18, to avoid having them serve seven months before getting state-mandated training. Also, they might want to take advantage of the many courses available through the TASB Online Learning Center.

The next item boards might consider changing is the timing of their superintendent evaluation. Many boards hold their summative superintendent evaluation in January. New board members joining the board after November elections would be hard pressed to get the training required for superintendent evaluation and be able to fairly judge the superintendent's performance for the previous 12 months.

Another area boards might look at changing is the timing of their required annual team-building session and their review of the district vision, mission, and goals. Many boards have traditionally scheduled these in the summer to allow new board members to have input. Changing the date of elections might warrant a reconsideration of those dates. If you need assistance or advice on any of these issues, please feel free to give us a call at **800.580.8272**, extension 6161.



## Reminders

### DATES/ACTIVITIES TO REMEMBER

- **WINTER GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SEMINAR (WGLS):** Housing cutoff is January 25.
- **SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (SLI):** Revised program submission deadline is February 10. Housing and registration open April 2.
- **2012 TASA/TASB CONVENTION:** Program submissions accepted January 12–March 15 at [tasa.tasb.org](http://tasa.tasb.org).

## 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, go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org), or contact Lisa Carothers at [lisa.carothers@tasb.org](mailto:lisa.carothers@tasb.org) with questions or comments.