

Leadership Team Times

December 2007

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

Training & Events

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As another calendar year winds down, we want to take this opportunity to say thank you for all that you do, and thank you for letting us be a part of it. Your accomplishments and hard work affect the future of our great state and enhance the lives of thousands of schoolchildren every day.

As a reminder, most TASB departments will be closed in observance of the holidays December 24–January 1, so be sure to get those end-of-the-year issues resolved before we close up shop.

As always, if you have feature ideas or run across information you'd like to share with your peers, contact Lisa Carothers at lisa.carothers@tasb.org.

Remember that the current issue of *Leadership Team Times* will be posted each month at LTS.tasb.org.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Kay Douglas, LTS senior consultant

Three years ago, when I started as a full-time consultant for TASB, I was doing team building in a district and the board president said, "I don't like that guy!" Since he had a smile on his face, I thought he was kidding. In response, the board member he had indicated said, "I don't like him either!"

For a second I thought, "What do I do now? That wasn't in the manual they gave me!" Then I heard myself saying, "That's okay. You don't have to like each other. You just have to be able to work together for kids."

All of a sudden, the board member got up and started toward the board president, and I thought there was going to be a fight. Instead, he stopped in front of his colleague and stuck out his hand saying, "She said I don't have to like you! I can work with you for kids." To my relief, the board president shook his outstretched hand.

I continued to do team building with that board for the next two years, through changes on the team. Last year, the district had an incredible interim superintendent and the board wanted to do a self-evaluation. Doing so, we identified things the board members were doing well, things they were doing okay, and things that needed improvement. We came up with an action plan.

They now have a wonderful new superintendent. Once again, we did the board self-evaluation and looked at those same items. It was very encouraging to see how far the team had come in the past three years. Self-evaluations allow boards to celebrate their victories, recognize their weaknesses, and make concrete plans for how they can improve. They also help boards to focus on what is important and to talk out their differences.

While you are gearing up for superintendent evaluation, you might want to consider evaluating your board's performance and making that an annual event.

CONVENTION:

Program submissions will be accepted beginning mid-January. Go to tasa.tasb.org for complete details.

SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE:

Program submissions will be accepted through January 15.

WINTER GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SEMINAR (WGLS):

February 21–23 in Corpus Christi. It's not too late—registration and housing are open through the end of January!

GRASSROOTS MEETINGS:

Held throughout the state January 15–March 13. Go to gr.tasb.org for complete details.

For a complete list of training and events, or to access more details on any of the information referenced, go to LTS.tasb.org.



RESOURCES

Prepared for 2008 elections? Order the *Guide for School Board Candidates* for help with the process, or purchase *A Call to Service Workshop Package* to host your own candidate workshop.

Check out two resources for superintendent evaluation:

1. *Developing Superintendent Performance Goals*
2. *Focusing the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument on Results*

Access a complete list of Leadership Team Services resources at LTS.tasb.org.

EXPONENTIAL LEARNING AT A FRACTION OF THE COST

Did you know you can invite a Leadership Team Services consultant to deliver training right in your district and get it at half-price?

You can even multiply the training benefits by sharing ideas with your colleagues from other local school districts, just like you do at TASB conferences! Just call us and ask about our regional multidistrict workshops. When two or more districts plan a training workshop together, each pays only half the cost of our single-district training.

We'll even do the work of inviting the districts you'd like to include and billing them directly. All you have to do is provide the meeting space, pick a date that works for the districts involved, and select a topic you and your fellow boards want to learn more about.

This is a great option for receiving training before your annual announcement of school board training completed during the year.

To learn more, call Rita Reynolds-Gibbs at 800.580.8272, extension 6161.



Reminders

ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER AS AGENDA CALENDAR ACTIVITIES:

- Conduct superintendent evaluation.
- Publish annual report of district performance.
- Hold a budget assumptions and priorities workshop.
- Make announcement about board training credit and be sure the minutes of the last regular meeting of the calendar year reflect the announcement.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **WGLS**, February 21–23, 2008, Corpus Christi
- **SLI South**, June 12–14, 2008, San Antonio
- **SLI North**, June 19–21, 2008, Fort Worth
- **Convention**, September 26–28, 2008, Dallas

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, or contact Lisa Carothers at lisa.carothers@tasb.org with questions or comments.