



MASBA

MEXICAN-AMERICAN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ASSOCIATION



MASBA Summer E-Newsletter

Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA President
Big Spring ISD Board Member

My Fellow MASBA Members, Sponsors, and Friends of Public Education,

As school starts and the summer ends, MASBA continues to work for you. Some of that work consists of: (1) making all the preparations for the 2017 MASBA Annual Conference and Expo, February 23-26, 2017 at the La Quinta Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas (2) making all the preparations for the upcoming Hispanic Heritage Awards reception on September 23rd in Houston during the TASA/TASB Conference (3) finalizing the scholarship program by sending and ensuring that the scholarship funds (MASBA awarded \$16,00 in scholarships this year) were received timely by the various universities which our scholarship recipients will be attending (4) co-sponsoring the Hispanic Family and Fatherhood Conference, October 14, Houston, Texas (5) being involved and participating in the legislative interim charges hearings in behalf of MASBA and as members of the Texas Latino Education Coalition (TLEC), and gearing up for the 85th Legislative Session which convenes January 10, 2017 – our main interest and attention will be on supporting legislation which enhances public education and serves the best interests of the children/students of our member districts and speaking out against legislation which impedes the progress of same.

Membership packets have been mailed and we encourage you to renew your membership early and update your district's contact information in order that your board stays informed regarding all the upcoming MASBA events and activities. For those future members who have not yet experienced and participated in MASBA, we hope you join us this school year. Our membership continues to grow and we are excited to be on-track to surpass 100 school district memberships this school year. Thus, we will continuously strive to offer and provide relevant and valuable services, programs, and training sessions.

Your MASBA membership provides your entire Board and Superintendent the opportunity to attend all of our TEA certified Continuing Education Credit (CEC) sessions at the annual conference at no additional cost – all CECs are approved to be recorded as TASB Tier 3 Board Development.

The name of our organization, after over 40 years of existence, has been branded as MASBA and we strive to be totally inclusive and open for all to join, be part of our steady growth and development, and the attainment of our mission. Speaking of our over 40 years of existence, everyone is still excited and talking about having been honored with the presence of the Honorable Congressman Ruben Hinojosa at the recent MASBA membership reception this past June 17, 2016 in San Antonio, at which he was the

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first person to receive the MASBA "La Campana" and "Molcajete" awards. As a congressman who has been a champion for education, he was the ideal recipient. In addition, he is also an original founder of MASBA and a former School Board member of the Mercedes Independent School District. From a School Board member to a United States Congressman – Not too bad. This speaks to the importance, value, and honor of being a School Board member. Hats off to all School Board members, congratulations, and thank you for your invaluable service.

See you at TASA/TASB 2016 - Houston!

Juntos Podemos!

Best Regards,



Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA 2016 President

**A CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION,
CHILDREN, AND COMMUNITY
HANGS UP HIS GLOVES**

LOUIS Q. REYES III, after a quarter of a century (25 years) of dedicated service to his community as School Board Member of the Seguin Independent School District, has decided to retire from the School Board and did not file for re-election for which he would have been elected again hands down. For 12 of those 25 years, he served as President.



All of us that know and have gotten to know Louis (affectionately dubbed "the Godfather") also know that he is a quiet man, a man of honor, who respects and appreciates everyone. A greeting with and from Louis will always end with "God Bless You". During a recent visit to his office, I witnessed the scores of calls urging him to run again. The pressure from the community was heavy and it was a very difficult decision. Ultimately, Louis said, "I appreciate the strong support of my community, but in this decision I am going to pray, listen to my heart, and to those that care and love me the most, my family". What better support and guidance can one get. Join MASBA in congratulating and thanking Louis for his devoted years of service, for having a very positive impact in the education of children, and for the improvement of the quality of life of his Seguin community which he dearly loves.



Louis is retiring from his School Board, but fortunately he will continue his work with MASBA where he has served as President and will stay on as Executive Director. In addition, he will continue to devote time to his already successful Allstate Insurance office and practice, and to have more quality time with his family.

--- by Sam Guzman

MASBA Director of Operations & Development



**Thank You for Joining Us at the
MASBA SLI North 2016 Summer Reception**

**Congratulations Mr. Ruben Cortez (SBOE, D2)
MASBA 2016 Dedicated to Education Award Recipient**



Louis Q. Reyes, III, MASBA Executive Director & Immediate Past-President (Seguin ISD); Irene Galan-Rodriguez, MASBA President (Big Spring ISD) awards State Board of Education Member, Ruben Cortez, with the MASBA Dedicated to Education Award, Armando Rodriguez, MASBA President-Elect (Canutillo ISD).

MASBA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**MESQUITE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Congratulations to Mesquite ISD who is recognized as the MASBA 2016-17 Dedication to Commitment & Excellence Award winner. MASBA recognizes its member districts who are dedicated to the MASBA vision and are a devoted participating member. This is the second year in a row Mesquite ISD has achieved this honor.

MASBA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



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Attorneys and Counselors at Law



C y b e r S P E D

O'Hanlon Helping Districts to Comply with New



Escamilla & Poneck, LLP
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**MASBA
Education Service Center (ESC)
Members:**



Classroom Camera Law (SB 507)

The O'Hanlon Law Firm has participated in the development of CyberSPED, a stand-alone software for the new special education classroom camera compliance law. CyberSPED is owned by Ed.Cloud Technologies LLC, a technology-based company that was formed specifically for the purpose of helping Texas public school districts efficiently and economically comply with the new state law (SB 507) that requires cameras in special education classrooms upon request.

The service provides a mobile APP and web-based platform where parents, staff, and Board Members alike may log-in to request cameras to be placed in classrooms, or request footage from classrooms that already have cameras. The program automatically retrieves the requested footage, auto-generates all required legal documentation, sanitizes the footage if required by FERPA, and produces a complete, legally compliant package of footage and documentation to the recipient of the District's choice (for example HR, or legal counsel). Once approved, the program will then stream the requested footage directly to a user's computer or mobile device.

Further, the program constantly monitors all hardware, such as cameras and storage, and sends an alert whenever the District suffers equipment failure in one or more classrooms. The entire compliance program is turn-key, and is monitored and run off-site by Ed.Cloud Tech.'s personnel.

"We wanted to ensure MASBA members and all districts had a one stop resource concerning this new law, which from the on-set, was confusing to many districts," stated Kevin, O'Hanlon, majority owner of CyberSPED. "We created CyberSPED specifically to eliminate undue stress and uncertainties [that] districts may have in sorting out all the laws and requirements regarding SB 507 [the new camera law]," continued O'Hanlon and added, " Our special education team will be handling 'all things SB 507' to make sure all compliance is met."

More information about CyberSPED and solutions concerning SB 507 may be found at www.cybersped.com or by emailing the company directly at Care@CyberSPED.com.



Texas Latino Education Coalition

REMINDER:

The deadline is Sept. 2. to submit public comment to the Texas State Board of Education against the offensive and inaccurate "Mexican American Heritage" textbook.



MASBA Executive Board

[Irene Galan-Rodriguez](#)
President
Big Spring ISD (REG 18)

[Armando Rodriguez](#)
President - Elect
Canutillo ISD (REG 19)

-- open --
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Alice ISD (REG 2)

[Shane Haggerty](#)
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Ysleta ISD (REG 19)

[Louis Q. Reyes, III](#)
Immediate Past-President
Executive Director
Seguin ISD (REG 13)

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[Homero Garcia](#)
South Texas ISD (REG 1)

[Orlando Flores](#)
Fabens ISD (REG 19)

MASBA Points of Contact

[Sam Guzman](#)
Director
Operations & Development

[Kurt Hixson](#)
Communications
Membership/Sponsorship

Here's a step-by-step guide on how to make your voice heard:

http://masfortexas.org/Instructions_PCF.

Sign the Petition at www.masfortexas.org

September 13

Joint House Higher Education & Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on the "long-term viability of the Hazelwood Act"

www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/schedules

September 14

Senate Education Hearing on "school choice" and vouchers ("education savings account and tax credit scholarship programs") www.capitol.state.tx.us

- **Testifying:** S.A. Hispanic Chamber, MASBA, Texas HOPE, MALDEF, maybe IDRA and McNeil Foundation
- **FYI:** The following four voucher-related bills received hearings last session: SB 1178 by Huffines ("educational savings accounts") which passed the Senate last session, SB 894 ("virtual vouchers"), SB 276 by Campbell ("taxpayer savings grant program"), and SB 642 by Bettencourt ("insurance premium tax credit" for organizations).

September 15

Senate Finance Hearing on "tax relief to property owners," "the gradual phase out of the franchise tax," etc.

www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/schedules

- **Testifying:** S.A. Hispanic Chamber, La Fe, Texas LULAC, MALDEF and MASBA

submitted by:



Celina Moreno
Legislative Staff Attorney
MALDEF
110 Broadway, Suite 300
San Antonio, TX 78205
ph (210) 224-5476 ext 212
www.maldef.org



SAVE THE DATE

September 23-25, 2016



October 14, 2016



February 23 - 26, 2017

**MASBA 2017
Annual Conference &
Expo**



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About MASBA

The Mexican American School Board Members Association (MASBA) is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

Our members are school districts, their board members/trustees, administrators and education service centers.

The mission of the Mexican American School Board Members Association is to:

- Make high quality education possible to ALL students.
- Increase parental and community participation in public governance.
- Improve academic achievement.
- Advocate for equitable school finance.

www.MASBA.info