



# Director's Update

April 2009

Dan Farley - Executive Director

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## Legislative Update

As the legislative session winds down, ASBA continues to monitor numerous bills affecting public schools. For current information regarding the status of legislation this session, be sure to use the Bill Tracker which is linked at the bottom of the ASBA home page ([www.arsba.org](http://www.arsba.org)). The follow information is current as of April 1.

**HB 1923** (Sponsor: Rep. Perry) was deferred; this bill would have established provisions for recall elections for school board members.

**HB 1931** (Sponsor: Rep. Pierce) was deferred; this bill would have moved the date of school elections. We don't anticipate any action on this deferred bill this session.

**HB 1940** (Sponsor: Rep. Cook) was passed by the House; it was received by the Senate on March 30. This bill updates the duties and responsibilities of school board members; ASBA worked closely with members of the legislature on this bill and supports its passage.

**HB 2170** (Sponsor: Rep. Carnine) passed by the House and Senate; provides for intervention and professional consultation upon early indicators of fiscal or facilities distress.

### Approved and Signed by the Governor

**HB 1098** – kindergarten enrollment (Act 29)

**HB 1133** – eligibility for lifetime teaching license (Act 224)

**HB 1272** – school parental involvement plan requirements (Act 397)

**SB 45** – county election boards to consult with school districts regarding number and location of polling sites for annual school election (Act 292)

**SB 226** – schools that schedule spring breaks must set it for the 38th week of the school year (Act 424)

**SB 238** – districts must promptly reevaluate and place students determined to have behavioral disabilities by officials in other states (Act 377)

**SB 252** – minimum age for prekindergarten (Act 426)

### 2009 NSBA Southern Region Conference in Little Rock July 8 - 10

This summer Arkansas will host the 2009 National School Boards Association Southern Region Conference in Little Rock. The conference will be held at the Peabody Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center.

The keynote speaker on July 9 will be Wes Moore, an investment banker in New York, who served as a Special Assistant for former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice while he was a White House Fellow. Moore, a Rhodes Scholar and veteran, created an organization that works with youth involved in the criminal justice system.

Other general session speakers are State Senator Joyce Elliott and businessman and NFL referee Walt Coleman.

Registration forms have been mailed to school board members and superintendents; the form may be downloaded from the ASBA Web site: [www.arsba.org](http://www.arsba.org).



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## Use TAPS discounts for stimulus spending

As more details emerge about the federal stimulus plan, district officials should know that the Texas-Arkansas Purchasing System (TAPS) can stretch stimulus funds by providing discounted purchasing on items that already have been bid.

TAPS has added construction services, including architectural/engineering or scope of work services, that have been bid out. This will help districts and other agencies get construction projects completed in a timely manner as required for stimulus funds using experienced professionals with a long track record of success in school construction and renovation.

The TAPS program has been endorsed by the state purchasing director as meeting requirements for state agencies, school, municipal, county and higher education purposes.

TAPS is a consortium of national vendors who provide discounted purchasing power to schools, colleges, universities, cities, counties and other government entities. TAPS can provide your district with significant savings on everything from classroom technology equipment to HVAC to stadium lighting and sports surfaces to construction projects. Before you sign another purchasing contract, check the **TAPS product and vendor list at [www.taps-usa.com](http://www.taps-usa.com)**.

Joining TAPS is a simple; a board of directors must approve a board resolution and an interlocal purchasing agreement. These signed documents must be submitted to the Dawson Education Service Cooperative in Arkadelphia, which sponsors TAPS in Arkansas. **For more information and required documents, please contact Mickey McFatridge at 501-372-1415.**

## Welcome to New Region 6 Director

The December election of Dr. Paul Hance as Secretary-Treasurer of the ASBA Board of Directors resulted in a vacant director position. The ASBA Executive Committee recently appointed Brenda McKown of McRae to fill the Region 6 vacancy.

McKown has the distinction of board service in two school districts. She served for 10 years on the former McRae School Board prior to its annexation into the Beebe School District. During the transition period, she served as an interim board member for two years, helping the communities to shepherd the successful merger. In 2007 she was elected to a five-year term on the Beebe School Board.

In addition to her board commitments, McKown is the building manager for Catlett Tower Partnership. Her community involvement includes McRae Fest, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and Project Graduation. McKown has two daughters, Allison and Spencer.

## ASBA plans late April move

The Arkansas School Boards Association will move into its new location at the end of April. The new site is located at 523 South Ringo at the corner of Ringo and 6th Streets in Little Rock.

"We anticipate closing the office for two days to accomplish the move and activate the computer and phone systems," said ASBA Executive Director Dan Farley. "We will notify school districts of the exact date of the move as soon as it is final."