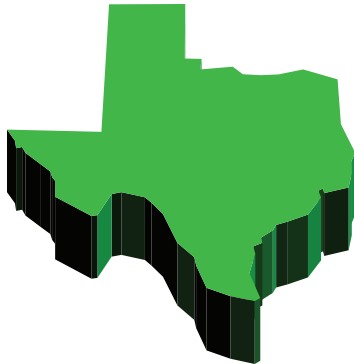


# TABSE

“Making a Difference in the Lives of Children”



## Message From The President

Dennis Dunkins, Sr.

It was in 1985 that I attended the first National Alliance of Black School Educators' (NABSE) Conference. It was held in New York City at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. My first trip to New York City was so exciting, but it became apparent that my trip to New York City was not to be my purpose for being at NABSE. At the conference, I began to see NABSE as a great potential for educating African-American children in Texas.

I met Dr. Alfred Roberts from Dallas ISD at the conference, and I contacted him and asked if he would join with me in organizing a Dallas/Fort Worth chapter of NABSE. Dr. Roberts readily agreed and the beginning of DR/NABSE began to take shape. We learned of educators in Houston attempting to do the same for the south Texas area so we made contact with them and a small band of African American educators began to meet. From those meetings, the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE) was born.

Twenty-three years later, I find myself at the helm of this great organization. The challenges for our present time are far greater than those when we began TABSE. Some of the challenges we face today include:

1. The academic performance of African-American students.
2. The social behavior of many of our African-American males
3. The need to increase the participation of African-Americans in post high school education; and
4. Teen pregnancy

While this is just a microcosm of the many issues, if we can faithfully face these and make some positive changes for these bright young people then we will have accomplished much. I call on each of you to help me by joining TABSE today. You may send your membership dues (\$10.00) to TABSE, 3100 Richmond Avenue, Suite 306, Houston, TX. 77098. We will also help you form a TABSE Affiliate in your local school community. LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR THE SALVATION OF OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY!

### TABSE OFFICERS

President

Dennis Dunkins, Sr.

President-Elect

Dr. Elaine Bailey

Executive Director

Tony Lukan

Secretary

Crystal Goodman

Financial Secretary

Linda Fisher-Griggs

Treasurer

Phyllis Williams

Historian

Brockley Moore

Parliamentarian

Lucy Hall

Chaplain

Jerry Holmes

## The Changing Of The Guard TABSE Inducts New State Officers

On Saturday, June 21, 2008 five Texas Alliance of Black School Educators officers were sworn in by Edward Cline, one of the founding fathers of TABSE. The ceremony took place in the HAABSE and TABSE office in Houston, Texas at 3100 Richmond Avenue at 1:00 p.m. The stately Mr. Cline talked about the traits of a leader. Phyllis Williams, Brockley King Moore, Jerry Holmes, Linda Fisher-Griggs, and Dr. Elaine Bailey all took the oath of office from Mr. Cline as they placed their hand on the bible and spoke briefly about their responsibilities. Under the watchful eye of Dennis Dunkins, President of TABSE, the officers were later presented an engraved bible by Joyce Bell.

The officers of TABSE, under the leadership of Dennis Dunkins, conducted a formal meeting after the ceremony. It was evident that each new officer took his or her role and duty seriously as they discussed various issues related to making TABSE an organization of excellence for the children and educators in the state of Texas. TABSE officers left the meeting with a renewed sense of commitment, purpose and mission for the organization.

Crystal Goodman, Secretary of TABSE, was sworn into office earlier in the week in Fort Worth, Texas by Attorney Glen Lewis. The ceremony, led by Dennis Dunkins, took place at the Dunbar 7/8th grade Center.

# TABSE OFFICERS

## Chaplain - Jerry Holmes

Jerry Holmes has completed 34 years in the field of education. As a graduate of the University of North Texas, Jerry began his teaching career in the Denton Independent School District. Jerry is currently employed with the Ft. Worth ISD and has been a Social Studies teacher, Business Education teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. Jerry has been an active member of NABSE, TABSE, and FWABSE. Jerry has served as President of the FWABSE and the Executive Council of TABSE. Jerry enjoys talking to people about current events, issues related to local, state, national and international issues. Jerry's promise to the school children of Texas is to work for educational equality for all children in Texas.

## Financial Secretary - Linda Fisher-Griggs

Linda Fisher-Griggs has worked in education for 23 years for Galveston ISD as Educational Diagnostician, Reading Facilitator, Team Leader, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten teacher. She is a life member of NABSE, and past President of the Galveston County ABSE. She received her Bachelor's and Masters degrees from Prairie View A&M. She enjoys reading and traveling. Currently, she is owner of Favor Evaluation and Consultation Services which was established in August of 2007.

## Secretary— Crystal Goodman

Throughout my entire teaching, coaching, and administrative career, I have always wanted to serve those who are in need of me most. It is more than a challenge to me, it is a promise that I make to these students. I want them to reach their full potential and utilize their many talents. I have been a member of TABSE for six years, and I have always encouraged others to join. Over the years, I have seen the organization grow in membership and address the many issues facing our African-American students. I am honored to stand with and support our President, Dennis Dunkins, who has dedicated his life to our children. My goal for each school child in Texas is to receive equal access to an education that is filled with academic challenges that inspires him or her to be the best.

Crystal is currently the Principal at Dunbar 6th Grade Center in Fort Worth ISD.

## Historian - Brockley King Moore

Brockley is a Certified Human Resource Supervisor with the United States Army at Fort Hood. He is a charter member of the Killeen Area Alliance of Black School Educators, and he serves in many community organizations. Brockley is also a representative for the American Book Company and works with the Killeen Independent School District. Brockley is also Youth Director of Simmonsville Missionary Baptist Church.

## \$\$ Urban Scholarship Fund

State Representative Yvonne Davis of Dallas was instrumental in creating the Urban Scholarship Fund in 1995. This fund was created to provide access to higher education for students. Students must be U.S. citizens who are full-time undergraduates in good academic standing at any accredited public or private university or college. Students must demonstrate a financial need and should have graduated from a high school in the following areas: Abilene, Amarillo, Arlington, Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Garland, Houston, Irving, Laredo, Lubbock, Mesquite, Pasadena, Plano, San Antonio, or Waco. Students should contact their school guidance counselor for more information or the Texas Association of developing Colleges at [www.txadc.org](http://www.txadc.org). July 9, 2008 is the deadline for

applying to the Urban Scholarship fund this year. Between 300 to 350 scholarships may be awarded this year with amounts ranging from \$700 to \$2000. The Urban Scholarship Fund was created during the 74th legislature session as part of House Bill 2128. It takes previously unclaimed telephone service deposits to fund this program.



Information from La Vida News/The Black Voice which is one of Fort Worth's and Arlington's oldest and largest black weekly newspapers. P.O. Box 751, Fort Worth, Texas 76101

**TABSE is proud to announce that many schools across Texas are making great academic strides with their students under the leadership of African-American administrators. More and more schools are becoming “Exemplary” and “Recognized” schools according to TEA accountability ratings. These are just a few of the exemplary and recognized campuses across the state. TABSE wants to congratulate these schools and feature some outstanding schools in the TABSE newsletter. Keep up the good work!**

#### **Alief ISD**

Landis Elementary—Recognized—Chris Pichon

#### **Arlington ISD**

Ashworth Elementary –Exemplary—Lynn Allen

Veda Knox Elementary—Recognized– Yvonne Harris—Dupont

#### **Beaumont ISD**

Dunbar Elem.—Exemplary—Iris Williams

French Elem.—Exemplary—Jackie Lavergne

Price Elem.—Exemplary—Rachel Jones

Blanchette Elem.—Recognized—Barbara Hardeman

Martin Elem.—Recognized—Dr. Ted Stuberfield

Homer Elem.—Recognized—Ava Colbert

#### **Cedar Hill ISD**

West Intermediate—Recognized—Debra Owens-Pinckney

Highlands Elem.—Recognized—Sylvia Lewis

Waterford Oaks Elem.—Recognized—Violet Maxwell

#### **Dallas ISD**

Harry Stone Montessori—Exemplary—Lisa Patrick-Curry

J.P. Starks Elem.—Exemplary—Lynette Howard

A.S. Johnston Elem.—Recognized—Deborah Kilgore

M.L. King Elem.—Recognized—Maria Freeman

Kleberg Elem.—Recognized—Usamah Muhammad- Rodgers

Richard Lagow Elem.—Recognized—Gabriella Hill

W.B. Miller Elem.—Recognized—Sheila Aldredge

Elisha Pease Elem.—Recognized—Cheryl Freeman

H.S. Thompson Elem.—Recognized—Kamalia Cotton-Curry

Phillis Wheatley Elem.—Recognized—Nanette Watts

J.N. Bryan Elem.—Recognized—Orethann Price

John Ireland Elem.—Recognized—Jennifer Clark

Charles Rice Learning Center—Recognized—Judith Guilbeaux

#### **Fort Worth ISD**

Clifford Davis Elem.—Recognized—Shelia Turner

Glen Park Elem.—Recognized—Cassandra Surles

Bill Elliott Elem.—Recognized—Pam Henderson

W.M. Green Elem.—Recognized—Edra Bailey

I.M. Terrell Elem.—Recognized—Joann Dickerson

Leonard 6th Grade Center—Recognized—Nicole Johnson

Dunbar 6th Grade Center—Recognized—Keith Christmas

#### **Grand Prairie ISD**

Colin Powell Elem.—Exemplary—Thelma Lott Jones

#### **Judson ISD**

Converse Elem.—Recognized—Ted Haynes

#### **Richardson ISD**

Stults Road Elem.—Exemplary—Darwin Spiller

## **GOING FROM GOOD TO GREAT**

### **Landis Elementary—Alief ISD**

Under the leadership of Principal Chris Pichon, Landis Elementary located in Alief ISD is going from good to great. Currently, Landis Elementary has received a rating of “Recognized” for the 2007-2008 school year.

Landis Elementary School is a PreK–4th grade campus in the Alief Independent School District. The campus serves a community of 790 students. The Landis student population includes 42 % African American, 54% Hispanic, and 4% other. Approximately 400 of the Hispanic students receive bilingual education. 89% of Landis’ student population are considered economically disadvantaged. Despite the socio-economic disadvantages of the community, Landis’ students continue to make academic improvements in all areas.

Principal Chris Pichon credits the improvements of his students to the planning initiative implemented by his instructional leadership team. Under this plan, the leadership team paired with grade level teachers reviewed pacing guides and designed lesson plans per

subject. The goal was to ensure that everyone understood that effectively planning a lesson is paramount to student achievement. The instructional leadership team then observed teacher delivery of lesson plans and served as a resource for lesson planning, observing, modeling and providing interventions.

Landis was featured in *Texas Monthly* magazine as one of the best public schools in Texas. The administrative team, teachers, students, and parents have worked hard to establish Landis as one of the premiere urban schools in Texas.

Christopher Pichon, Sr. received his Bachelors of Science in Computer Information Systems and his Masters of Science in Occupational Education from the University of Houston. He currently serves as the Instructional Leader of Landis Elementary as well as working part-time training aspiring principals in the McNeil Foundation Principal Leadership Certification Program.

# TEXAS ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS

**Join TABSE and Make A Difference in the Lives of Children.**

Check with your local school district affiliate to join TABSE  
**Dues \$10.00**

Membership benefits include a discount on the state conference, educational information sent to you from across the state, and a chance to make an impact on the quality of education in Texas.

Contact Phyllis Williams at [phyllis6702@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllis6702@yahoo.com) for more membership information

## Mark Your Calendars Now



**NABSE**—National Alliance of Black School Educators 36th Annual Conference November 18-23, 2008 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

[www.nabse.org](http://www.nabse.org)

**TABSE**—Texas Alliance of Black School Educators 24th Annual Conference March 12–14, 2009 in Houston, Texas.



“Upon our children, how they are taught, rests the fate or fortune of tomorrow’s world.”

B.C. Forbes



The TABSE newsletter will be distributed quarterly.  
 If you would like your school featured in an article, please contact Dennis Dunkins  
**TABSE President**  
 Please feel free to forward to anyone interested in the educational future of our children.

If you are interested in submitting news or being a part of the newsletter committee, please contact  
**Newsletter Editor/Chairperson**  
**April Willrich**  
**Arlington ISD**  
[awillric@aisd.net](mailto:awillric@aisd.net)  
 or  
**TABSE President Dennis Dunkins @ [dennis.dunkins1@fwisd.org](mailto:dennis.dunkins1@fwisd.org)**