

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 11, 2018**

## **Region 7 ESC Names Lindale ISD School Board 2018 Regional Board of the Year**

**KILGORE, TEXAS** – Region 7 Education Service Center is proud to announce Lindale ISD Board of Trustees as the 2018 Regional School Board of the Year.

The LISD Board of Trustees will serve as the Region 7 representative in this year's Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) School Board Awards Program.

Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt nominated the board for the award, stating that they have "led the district to greatness at every level, that is unmatched by most districts across the state of Texas."

In the last several years, LISD trustees have established or revised more than 200 policies. These policies are not intended to allow the board to micromanage district affairs; rather, they hold the entire district, including teachers and administrators, to higher standards. Policies adopted or revised in the last several years include Safety Programs/Risk Management, Employee Welfare, Funds Management and numerous others.

In 2016, the Board approved a plan to initiate its own police force by adding two police officers. "There is nothing more important than keeping our students, teachers, staff members and school visitors safe during the school day," said LISD School Board President Kelly Cox. This initiative will allow for more coverage each day to the six campuses in the district.

In November 2017, Lindale ISD was recognized as a financially responsible district by the Texas Education Agency's "Superior Achievement" rating. Surratt named the effort of staff members, who are conscious of the district's taxpayers regarding LISD expenses. "Our LISD Board of Trustees deserve a great deal of credit for their fiscal management," said Surratt.

Other recent accomplishments include lowering the property tax rate for district homeowners, increasing the teacher pay scale to remain competitive among other districts, and implementing "the Lindale TJC Promise", a program that allows high school students to earn scholarships based on student performance that can ultimately pay for two years of tuition and fees at Tyler Junior College.

TASA will announce the five Texas Honor School Boards on August 10, 2018.

TASA created the School Board Awards Program in 1971 to recognize school boards whose dedication and ethical service have made a positive impact on the schoolchildren of Texas. It is an excellent way for districts to recognize their hard-working, dedicated board members. Each year, regional selection committees submit up to two nominations for state competition, one from districts with fewer than 1,000 students and one from districts with more than 1,000 students. The criteria emphasize support for educational improvement projects and school transformation initiatives.

School boards nominated to represent their regions are in the running to be named one of five Texas Honor Boards, one of which is chosen as Texas' Outstanding School Board. All regional nominees and honor boards are recognized at the TASA/TASB Convention, which takes place each fall. For more information about the state school board awards, visit <https://www.tasanet.org/domain/55>.

SUMMER STONE | COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST | [SSTONE@ESC7.NET](mailto:SSTONE@ESC7.NET) | (903) 988-6972

Region 7 ESC is committed to district, charter and student success by providing quality programs and services that meet or exceed customer expectations. One of 20 regional education service centers statewide, Region 7 ESC participates in the planning development, coordination, implementation and evaluation of innovative educational programs for 96 school districts and 10 charter schools in the counties of Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Nacogdoches, Rains, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Panola, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood. For more information, visit [www.esc7.net](http://www.esc7.net).



(left to right: Matt Watts, Gary Camp, Robert McGee, Kelly Cox, Mike Combs, Donny Williams, Kenneth Cline)

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