



COUNCIL OF URBAN BOARDS OF EDUCATION  
SERVING AMERICA'S URBAN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

## CUBE 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference *Governing Urban Schools in an Era of Change*

October 8-10, 2009  
Omni Austin Hotel Downtown  
Austin, Texas

### Agenda

Conference tote bags have been generously sponsored by:



Conference flash drives have been generously sponsored by:



#### **Thursday, October 8, 2009**

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration  
*Balcony Alcove, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

*Light refreshments will be served*

*CUBE's Leadership Workshop afternoon refreshments are sponsored by:*



**2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

#### **Leadership Workshop**

*This session is hosted by the CUBE Governance & Training Task Force.*

**Building Superintendent/CEO Leadership for Urban Schools**  
Board members have the great responsibility of leading the process in finding the best superintendent/CEO for their district. The current focus on urban governance demands board members to recognize each other's roles in the district, establish the desired

qualifications and characteristics of the CEO, involve the community, and carry out the process in the most professional manner. The search process is complex but the results can be great when the right governance team is formed. Join this session and understand the complexity of the process and how your state associations may be able to assist.

Presider: *Elizabeth Daniels*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Portsmouth (VA) City Public Schools

Presenters:

*Benjamin O. Canada*, Associate Executive Director of District Services, Texas Association of School Boards

*Shelia Jackson*, Board President, San Diego (CA) Unified School District

*Sandra Smith-Jones*, Board Member, Virginia Beach (VA) Public Schools and CUBE Steering Committee Member

*Mark Williams*, Board President, Austin (TX) Independent School District

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Break

**4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

### **CUBE Orientation**

This informal session will help meeting attendees familiarize themselves with CUBE's mission and services. The session is open to first-time attendees, new CUBE member districts, and others interested in learning more about CUBE.

Presider: *Lock P. Beachum, Sr.*, CUBE Steering Committee Chair and Board Vice President, Youngstown (OH) City School District

Presenter: *Kevin Scott*, CUBE Membership Services Manager, NSBA, Alexandria (VA)

## **Friday, October 9, 2009**

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Balcony Alcove, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

Registration

7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

*Capital Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

*Buffet breakfast will be served*

**8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
*Capital Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

**Focus on Austin Independent School District and  
CUBE School Site Visits**

How is the Austin Independent School District (AISD) meeting the challenges faced by larger districts? See for yourself during a visit to three AISD public schools.

8:00 a.m. – breakfast and site visit briefing

9:00 a.m. – buses load and depart the 8<sup>th</sup> & Brazos entrance.

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – buses return to hotel

11:00 a.m. – buses depart for Omni Hotel

***NOTE!** If you have a specific preference for one of the following school sites, please arrive at the buses early to secure a seat on the bus for your preferred school site visit. When each bus is filled to capacity (approximately 35 registrants per bus, first come- first serve) participants will have to select from the other site visit choices. The buses will stage for loading at the 8<sup>th</sup> & Brazos entrance to the Omni Hotel.*

Presider: *Harium Martin-Morris*, CUBE Steering Committee  
Member and Board Member, Seattle (WA) Public Schools

Presenter: *Paul Cruz*, Chief Schools Officer, Austin (TX)  
Independent School District

Attendees will have the option to visit one of three schools:

**Ortega Elementary School** is a Texas Exemplary School. Ortega teachers are dedicated to their students. Teachers plan lessons that motivate and inspire their kids. Ortega teachers also provide students with multiple opportunities to learn what is expected at every grade level and not accept less than exceptional quality work that meet standards. The mission of Ortega Elementary School is to create a collaborative, supportive, and result-oriented learning environment with a challenging curriculum that not only will foster the desire for life-long learning in students, but one that will result with all students meeting exceptional academic standards to provide them access to college.

Principal: *Anna Pendroza*  
1135 Garland Avenue, Austin, TX 78721  
Phone: 512.414.4417

**Ann Richards Middle School for Young Women Leaders** is a unique all-girls public school founded to educate young women and give them the confidence and skills necessary to succeed in college, in their careers, and in their communities. The vision is to focus on the whole girl, providing academic and enrichment opportunities that will engage students, expand their horizons, and give them the tools to achieve their dreams. Located in Austin, Texas, the Ann Richards School currently serves 6th - 8th grades and will be adding a grade each year, graduating their first 12th grade class in 2013.

Principal: *Jeanne Goka*  
2206 Prather Lane, Austin, TX 78704  
Phone: 512.414.3236

**Garza Independence High School**, which opened in January of 1998, is a public school of choice for any student with 10 or more credits, who has completed two full years of high school and who wishes to earn a high school diploma. Students may apply anytime, whether they are presently enrolled in school or have not attended school for a period of time. Like all Austin ISD high schools, Garza is a fully accredited high school. Students completing all local and state requirements, including Texas Assessment of Academic Skills/Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, will be eligible to graduate with a high school diploma. Garza provides a credit-by-proficiency environment designed to remove the traditional barriers to succeeding in high school.

Principal: *Linda Webb*  
1600 Chicon Street, Austin, TX 78702  
Phone: 512.414.8600

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
*Capital Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

*Buffet lunch will be served*

Student Entertainment: *Bowie High School Cabaret Choir*, Austin (TX) Independent School District

*CUBE's opening keynote luncheon is sponsored by:*



**11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
*Capital Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*



**Opening Remarks**

**The 2009 CUBE State of Urban Education Address by Lock P. Beachum, Sr.**

Lock P. Beachum, Sr. is the current chair of the CUBE Steering Committee and board vice president of the Youngstown (OH) City School District.

**Video Address by U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, on Urban Governance**

NSBA's Executive Director, Anny Bryant, interviews U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. The Secretary focuses on urban school governance and his comments on education reform through mayoral involvement

Remarks: *Anne Bryant*, Executive Director, NSBA, Alexandria (VA)

**2009 CUBE Annual Award Special Recognition Districts- Best Practices**

Moderator: *Benjamin O. Canada*, Associate Executive Director of District Services, Texas Association of School Boards

Representatives from Special Recognition Districts:

*Neil E. Duke*, Baltimore (MD) City Public Schools

*Dena Dossett*, Director of Planning & Program Evaluation, Jefferson County (KY) Public Schools

*Kevin L. Hill*, Board Chair, Wake County (NC) Public Schools

**1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
*Capital Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*



**Keynote Address by James H. Johnson**

**Educating in the Throes of a Demographic Shift**

James H. Johnson Jr. is the William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of entrepreneurship and director of the Urban Investment Strategies Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Johnson's research focuses on the causes and consequences of growing inequality in American society, particularly as it affects socially and economically disadvantaged youth; entrepreneurial approaches to poverty alleviation, job creation, and community development; interethnic minority conflict in advanced industrial societies; and business demography and workforce diversity issues.

Presider: *Lock P. Beachum, Sr.*, CUBE Steering Committee Chair and Board Vice President, Youngstown (OH) City School District

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Break

**2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

**General Session**  
**The Vanishing Class – Drastically Improving Urban Graduation Rates**

According to researchers, 1.2 million public high school students drop out every year and nearly 50 percent of high school students in the nation’s 50 largest cities fail to graduate. What strategies does your district use to prevent students from dropping out of school? Does your district have a system in place to track graduation rates accurately? Join this discussion to learn drop-out prevention strategies and recovery efforts and share your district’s policies in this endeavor.

Presider: *Minnie Forte-Brown*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Durham (NC) Public Schools

Presenters:

*Andrew Moore*, Senior Fellow, Institute for Youth, Education & Families, National League of Cities, Washington (DC)  
*Linelle Clark-Brown*, Dropout Prevention/ Reduction Coordinator, Austin (TX) Independent School District and School Board Trustee, Round Rock (TX) Independent School District  
*Richard Halpin*, Chief Vision Officer and Founder, American Youthworks, Austin (TX)  
*Students from American Youthworks*

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break

**3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*



**Federal Legislative Update: Next Steps for Urban School Board Members and Stimulus Funds**

The Federal government is saying the money is coming but what is the expectation for stimulus spending? Is this enough money to make big changes in student achievement? Is two years enough time to make the sweeping changes to transform public education? Join this discussion and share your district’s plans to utilize the funds and deliver change.

Presider: *Steve Corona*, CUBE Immediate Past Chair and Board Member, Fort Wayne (IN) Community Schools

Presenter: *Deborah Rigsby*, Director, Federal Legislation, Advocacy & Issues Management, NSBA, Alexandria, (VA)

**Saturday, October 10, 2009**

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CUBE Information Desk  
*Balcony Alcove, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. *Buffet breakfast will be served*  
*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**  
*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

**Raising Student Achievement: Engaging Students is the Key**

*This session is hosted by the CUBE Racial Isolation Task Force.*

Engaging students, especially those who are struggling in traditional academic settings, is critical for raising achievement. But sparking real, sustained engagement is often elusive, especially in our Nation's most challenged schools and communities. Two districts have tackled the engagement issue head-on and are achieving astounding results, particularly with at-risk populations such as second-language learners. Their approaches are anything but traditional; yet their successes are clear, demonstrable, and measurable. What's the secret? They have focused on achievement in mathematics and English language arts, including comprehension and fluency strategies from Kindergarten through high school, via digital devices and technologies many of us would never stop and consider. Engaging? More than you could imagine. Test scores? Way up. Student performance? Off the charts. Parental and community pride? Like never before. This briefing will explore the practices from actual K-12 classrooms that are helping to make learning as engaging as possible, and results sustainable. And we'll share significant achievement data for the at-risk students who have benefited.

Presider: *Norma Muñoz*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Roosevelt Elementary School District #66, Phoenix (AZ)

Presenters:

*Kathy Shirley*, Apple Distinguished Educator, District Technology and Media Services Director, Escondido (CA) Union Elementary School District

*Joe Morelock*, Apple Distinguished Educator, Director, Technology & Innovation, Canby (OR) School District

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Break

**9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**District Workshops**

Join us for one of CUBE’s most popular sessions to discuss current topics with fellow board members from like-sized districts.

***Topic: Effective Student Achievement Practices for Underperforming Students***

*Topic and questions are provided by the CUBE Urban Student Achievement Task Force.*

**Large-Size Urban Districts (60,000 and over)**

***Location: Congress Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor***

Presider: *Susan Valdes*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Hillsborough County (FL) School District

**Mid-Size Urban Districts (30,000-60,000)**

***Location: Capital Ballroom A, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor***

Presider: *Van Henri White*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Vice President, Rochester (NY) City School District

**Small-Size Urban Districts (under 30,000)**

***Location: Capital Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor***

Presider: *Pierre V. Cooper*, CUBE Steering Committee and Board Member, Reading (PA) School District

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

**10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

**CUBE Annual Award-Best Practices**

Join this session and learn how the *2009 CUBE Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence* finalists are excelling in board governance, community engagement, closing the achievement gap, and helping their students achieve at the highest levels.

Presider: *Ralph Hernandez*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Buffalo (NY) City Public Schools

Moderator: *Benjamin O. Canada*, Associate Executive Director, District Services, Texas Association of School Boards, and CUBE Annual Award Judge

Representatives from Atlanta (GA) Public Schools

*LaChandra Butler Burks*, Board Chair

*Sharron Pitts*, Chief of Staff

Representatives from Broward County (FL) Public Schools

*Jennifer L. Gottlieb*, Board Member

*James F. Notter*, Superintendent

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Capital Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Buffet lunch will be served

The CUBE Annual Awards luncheon has been  
generously co-sponsored by:



11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Capital Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**CUBE Annual Awards Luncheon**

Join CUBE for a celebratory luncheon to honor the 2009 CUBE Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence winner, finalist district, special recognition districts, and the Benjamin Elijah Mays Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Presider: *Lock P. Beachum, Sr.*, CUBE Steering Committee Chair and Board Vice President, Youngstown (OH) City School District

Remarks: *Clarence H. “Sonny” Savoie*, NSBA President and Board Member, St. Charles Parish (LA) Public Schools

**Presentation of the 2009 Benjamin Elijah Mays Life-Time Achievement Award**

Presenter: *Sandra Smith-Jones*, Chair, Benjamin Elijah Mays Lifetime Achievement Award Committee; Board Member, Virginia Beach (VA) Public Schools and CUBE Steering Committee Member

**Presentation of Special Recognition Awards and 2009 CUBE Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence**

Presenter: *Benjamin O. Canada*, Associate Executive Director, District Services, Texas Association of School Boards, and CUBE Annual Award Judge

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Break

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Childhood Obesity: Meeting the Challenge in Urban Schools through Partnerships and Collaboration**

With nearly one in three children in the United States overweight or obese, particularly in communities with low-income and minority populations, urban school districts are leveraging community-wide opportunities for changing the environment to increase physical activity and healthy eating. This session will

showcase how education leaders, local policymakers, community groups, and other stakeholders are supporting effective and cost-effective solutions that can be replicated in large and small urban districts.

Presider: *Katherine P. Mitchell*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Little Rock (AR) School District

Moderator: *Brenda Z. Greene*, Director, School Health Programs, NSBA, Alexandria (VA)

Presenters:

*Emily Kujawa*, Project Coordinator, Leadership for Healthy Communities, School Health Programs, NSBA, Alexandria (VA)

*Carey Dabney*, Healthy Lifestyles Consultant, Texas PTA

*Rose Haggerty*, Manager for Secondary Health/Physical Education, Houston (TX) Independent School District

*Vincent Torres*, Vice President, Board of Trustees, Austin (TX) Independent School District

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Break

**3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

*Lone Star Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*



**Closing Keynote Address by Dr. Peter J. Negroni  
Transforming Schools in a Time of Change**

Dr. Peter J. Negroni is a senior vice president at the College Board. Negroni began his career in education as a New York City teacher. He then held positions of steadily increasing responsibility - becoming an assistant principal, principal, and serving as a community school district superintendent for 10 years. During which, he won widespread recognition for his work in school reform and unusual longevity as an urban school superintendent. Negroni then spent two years as executive director of the Educational Excellence Committee, an independent reform agency. Prior to joining the College Board, he was superintendent of the Springfield Public School system, and in 1998 was selected Superintendent of the Year by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Presider: *Sandy Jensen*, CUBE Vice Chair and Board President, Omaha (NE) Public Schools

**5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**  
*Atrium*

**CUBE Annual Networking Reception**

Remarks:

*Lock P. Beachum, Sr.*, CUBE Steering Committee Chair and Board Vice President, Youngstown (OH) City School District  
*Cheryl Bradley*, Board Member, Austin (TX) Independent School District

Student Entertainment: *Covington Middle School Steel Drum Band*, Austin (TX) Independent School District

*Thank you to our general conference supporter:*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR CUBE'S 2010 MEETINGS!**

**CUBE Issues Forum & Congressional Luncheon on Capitol Hill,  
Washington (DC)**

(held in conjunction with NSBA's Federal Relations Conference Jan 30-Feb 2, 2010)  
January 30 & February 2, 2010  
Hilton Washington Hotel

**CUBE Programming at NSBA's Annual Conference, Chicago (IL)**

(held in conjunction with NSBA's Annual Conference Apr 10-12, 2010)  
April 9-11, 2010  
The Palmer House Hilton Hotel

**CUBE Issues Seminar, Los Angeles (CA)**

June 24-26, 2010  
Renaissance Hollywood Hotel

**CUBE Annual Conference & Awards Luncheon, Baltimore (MD)**

September 30-October 2, 2010  
Renaissance Harborplace Hotel

*For additional information, visit [www.nsba.org/cube](http://www.nsba.org/cube) or  
e-mail [cube@nsba.org](mailto:cube@nsba.org)*