

## **The Graphic staff recognized by school board, board recognized by TASB for grant work**

Written by By Ava Barlow, Staff Writer  
Thursday, 19 May 2011 15:48 -

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May 12, 2011 - On Monday evening the Leonard ISD school board met and after executive session voted to hire Courtney Williams McCarley as a teacher at Leonard High School for the 2011-12 school year.

The board received a plaque from Texas Association of School Boards for grants applied for and received in the district, and also voted to extend the contract for Morgan Davis to be the audit firm for LISD for another year.



Ava Barlow was present to receive the Media Honor Roll plaques for herself and Betsy Blevins. Blevins and Barlow of The Leonard Graphic were named to the 2011 Media Honor Roll, a program sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), by Leonard Independent School District. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives statewide for fair and balanced reporting of news about public schools. Media representatives from more than 450 Texas newspapers, radio and television stations, and online publications were honored by their local districts.

Criteria for the district selection included the media representative's efforts to get to know the superintendent, board president, and the district's mission and goals; report school news in a fair, accurate, and balanced manner; give a high profile to positive news about schools; visit the schools; and maintain a policy of no surprises by sharing information with school officials.

"Districts across Texas appreciate these reporters for their balanced and accurate approach to sharing both the challenges facing our schools and the successes achieved by local teachers, students, and school boards. Their work aids local communities in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for every child," said Sylvester Vasquez Jr., TASB president.

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"The Leonard ISD School Board really appreciates both Betsy and Ava and their willingness to print news articles and photos showing the public the good things that are happening at LISD. They provide a vital link between the taxpayers and the school, keeping everyone informed with accurate and timely information", said Bill Watson, LISD Board president.

TASB is a non-profit organization established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 4.8 million public school students.

The school board members voted to pay the bills for April and approved the minutes to the April meeting.

**CAPTION:** Graphic staff member Ava Barlow displays the plaques presented to her and Managing Editor Betsy Blevins at Monday's Leonard ISD School Board meeting. Barlow and Blevins were named to the 2011 TASB Media Honor Roll. - Photo courtesy of Janna Layman