

August 30, 2012

Public input sought for District's next superintendent

SAISD patrons and community members are invited to share their views on the qualities and characteristics they would like the District's next leader to have and to learn more about the search process.

A series of community input sessions have been set for the first two weeks in September at seven SAISD high schools, and an online survey is available on the District's website.

The sessions and online survey are key components in the course of selecting SAISD's 18th superintendent, which is expected to take place in January.

Earlier this summer Trustees hired PROACT Search - a group of more than 100 consultants with experience as educators - to manage the process which will include recruiting qualified candidates.

We want to hear from you!

Tell us what type of superintendent you would like for SAISD by attending any of the following:

Community input sessions

- Sept. 4 (Tues) – 6 p.m.
Sam Houston HS, 4635 E. Houston St.
- Sept. 5 (Wed) – 6 p.m.
Lanier HS, 1514 W. César Chávez Blvd.
- Sept. 11 (Tues) – 6 p.m.
Burbank HS, 1002 Edwards St.
- Sept. 11 (Tues) – 6 p.m.
Jefferson HS, 723 Donaldson Ave.

Sept. 12 (Wed) – 6 p.m.
Brackenridge HS, 400 Eagleland Drive

Sept. 12 (Wed) – 7 p.m.
Highlands HS, 3118 Elgin Ave.

Sept. 13 (Thurs) – 6 p.m.
Edison HS, 701 Santa Monica Drive

Online survey

Your opinions also are sought at the Superintendent Search page found at:
www.saisd.net

Two meetings on Trustee redistricting proposals remain



District 5 Trustee Patti Radle answers questions during the Aug. 28 redistricting meeting at Lanier HS.

Community members who missed Tuesday's session on proposals to redraw single-member district boundaries still have time to review draft maps and offer opinions, including at one set for tonight.

Draft Map A would impact Districts 3, 4 and 5 while Draft Map B-1 calls for the redrawing of boundaries for Districts 1,2,3,4 and 5.

The redistricting is necessitated by demographic changes as determined by the 2010 Census and proposals are designed to equalize population.

Currently there is a greater than 10 percent difference between District 3 - the most populated - and District 5 - the least populated. These are served by Trustees Debra Guerrero and Patti Radle, respectively.

Hired to oversee the redistricting process is the law firm of Powell & Leon.

Remaining community meetings

Aug. 30 (Thurs) – 6 p.m.
Highlands HS, 3118 Elgin Ave.

&

Sept. 6 (Thurs) – 6 p.m.
Burbank HS, 1002 Edwards St.

SAISD family celebrates Convocation 2012



Keynote speaker Erin Gruwell meets with District employees and signs copies of her best-seller "The Freedom Writers Diary."

The new school year got off to a banner start on Aug. 21 when the more than 7,600-member District family converged upon Freeman Coliseum to kick off 2012-13.

The morning featured videos of student success stories, recognition of employee champions, keynote speaker Erin Gruwell, an acclaimed educator and author and special guests including Henry Cisneros, former mayor and HUD secretary, and former Spur Bruce Bowen. Special thanks to the SAISD Foundation and H-E-B for underwriting Convocation 2012.



Interim Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez welcomes guests. Shown with him on stage are speakers (l to r) Erin Gruwell, Henry Cisneros and SAISD Trustees.



Secret guest Bruce Bowen recalls his own school boy days and one inspirational teacher in particular - Ms. Walton who taught him when he was in 4th grade.

Handing out goody bags containing the ever-popular academic planners and booklets for journaling following Convocation 2012 are Firstmark Credit Union representatives.



Happy New School Year!

Welcome back! For many throughout the District, preparations began weeks prior to the Aug. 27 start date, while others were there to greet and lend a helping hand to the projected approximately 54,300 students on their first day of classes, making this sure to be the best school year ever!



Highlands HS cheerleaders were among spirit groups rallying support for the SAISD Council of PTAs. Shown at the podium for this annual back-to-school membership drive kickoff is PTA President Joyce Williams.



Some Hawthorne Academy bus riders had a very special fellow passenger when Interim Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez rode along. Bidding him farewell (in blue) is driver Rebecca Harris while principal Pita Rodriguez welcomes him to her school



As part of an Olympics theme, Bonham Academy students receive gold medals such as these teacher Blanca Gebhart is holding.



Beacon Hill ES principal Trace Mahbubani and festive blue balloons greet students on the first day of classes.



Franklin ES students walk the red carpet for a STAAR-studded celebration inspired by the state's new accountability exam



School Board President Ed Garza (center) and (l to r) fellow Jefferson HS alums KSAT-TV sportscaster Greg Simmons and David Sims visit during the Mustang's annual Ice Cream Social to celebrate the new school year. Courtesy photo



The generosity of donors and SAISD partners in education are making it possible for students throughout the District to start the school year well supplied for learning. These photos represent just a few examples. **1.** Ball ES students and teacher Misty Perez beam with delight after



receiving school supplies courtesy of the SA YES Foundation, presented by (l to r) New York Life representatives Jordan Samfield and John Bragan. **2.** After receiving their supplies, Japhet ES students high five a koala mascot. The Southeast Side elementaries were among



eight District campuses to benefit from the SA YES Foundation's generosity. **3.** School Board Secretary Olga Hernandez (far left) makes sure that Cotton ES students at are well-equipped for school at a supply giveaway courtesy of the clad-in-red San Antonio College employees. Courtesy photo

Be true to your school by 'Teaming Up' with the Spurs



Again this year Silver & Black Give Back is providing \$20,000 in funding for service learning projects.

Last year four SAISD schools received \$2,500 in seed money as Team Up Challenge finalists, and

Rogers ES ultimately earned one of the five top prizes for their ongoing college-readiness efforts.

Silver & Black Give Back provided information fliers during SAISD's Convocation 2012. The deadline to apply is **Sept. 14.**

For more information visit: www.teamupchallenge.com

More healthy choices offered this year

SAISD continues to increase its ongoing efforts to serve up meals that are both delicious and nutritious.

New menu items this year include Asian-inspired offerings such as all-natural teriyaki and orange chicken dishes over whole grain brown rice and



This lunch includes grilled chicken, broccoli with cheese, fruit cocktail, a pear and fat-free skim milk.

baked vegetable egg rolls. And turkey isn't just for Thanksgiving anymore but also will appear in the form of meat for taco salads and as bacon for BLTs.

While vegans and vegetarians have always had options there are now increased offerings.

Also new this year is a United States Department of Agriculture requirement that all students must take a fruit or vegetable with every meal. SAISD already offers them at least four servings of fruits and vegetables for lunch and two servings for breakfast, while students part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program have additional opportunities for servings of fruits and vegetables per day, said Sally Cody, SAISD senior director for Food and Child Nutrition Service, adding:

"Providing healthy, nutritious meals and snacks is a priority in SAISD."

This now includes supper served to students at campuses hosting after-school programs, increasing our opportunities to provide healthy meals.



Dr. Robert Treviño, Social and Health Research Center director, speaks at a news conference about a paper to be published in the September issue of the "Journal of Health" on the benefits of healthy school meals. SAISD Senior Director for Food and Child Nutrition Service Sally Cody (standing left) also spoke on how the District's efforts are helping students become more health conscious. Rhodes MS was the news conference host site.

Gold-standard principals



The 2012 Principals Summit included awards in several categories featuring a summer Olympics theme such as torch bearers - for those who were sources of inspiration and triathlon - for enduring all issues. Recipients for their performances during the



2011-12 school year and their schools are: **1.** Front row, l to r, Kristin Willmann, Rogers MS; Liz Solis, Longfellow MS; Charles Muñoz, Edison HS; Joanne Cockrell, Jefferson HS; Mary Olison, Wheatley MS; and Janet Perez, Whittier MS. Back row, l to r, Travis McKelvain, Connell MS; and Lorna Klockenga, Highlands HS. **2.** L to r, Laura Roberts, Woodlawn



Hills ES; Sonya Cardenas, Carvajal ECEC; Bertha Rubio, Crockett ES; Natasha Pinnix, Steele ES; and Patricia Ortiz, Bonham Academy. Not pictured is Linda Nance, Maverick ES. **3.** L to r, Cynthia De La Garza, Collins Garden ES; Mary Rodriguez, Hirsch ES; Joseph Cerna, De Zavala ES; and Pam Tankerson, Cameron ES.

Herff has heart

Sporting SAISD Foundation T-shirts in honor of being among the District's largest contributors through United Way are Herff ES principal Dr. Traci Smith (center, first row) and her staff. The school also is a recipient of United Way's prestigious



Platinum Award, recognizing employee groups whose contributions are equivalent to all employees giving two hours pay per month for 12 months.

Firstmark offers prizes for educators

Firstmark Credit Union has a variety of perks this year to help teachers help their students.

Through the Social Media Contest - running Oct. 10-31 - educators can win their choice of a classroom makeover, new iPad or a \$500 Visa gift card. As an added bonus, "Like" Firstmark on Facebook to be eligible for one of 25 autographed copies to be given away of Helen Segura's book "Less Stress for Teachers."

Teachers may also apply for a \$500 Educator Scholarship. Deadline to enter is Nov. 2.

More information is available in the academic planners employees received at Convocation 2012, or at Firstmark's Facebook page.

Open annual enrollment for 2012-13 under way

Employees wanting to add, change or delete coverage for medical, dental, vision, life or disability insurance have only until 11:59 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16 to do so. This will be the only opportunity to enroll in and/or change your benefit elections for 2012-13.

BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2012-13

- NO plan design changes and rate DECREASES to health and dental insurance programs. The no-cost premium option will continue for "employee only" health and dental coverages.
- NO plan design changes and NO rate increase to vision, life, disability, accident, and Critical Illness/Cancer insurance programs.
- The Critical Illness/Cancer insurance will again be offered up to \$15,000 Guarantee Issue for employee coverage and up to \$7,500

Guarantee Issue for spouse coverage.

If you do not wish to make any changes, no action is required, and your 2011-12 elections will continue for 2012-13, subject to the rate changes previously stated as applicable.

WHERE DO I ENROLL?

To enroll in new programs and/or make changes to your current medical, dental, vision, life, or disability you must go online to the Benefit Harbor enrollment website:

<http://www2.benefitaharbor.com/ees/saisd>

Employees currently enrolled in the Humana Accident or Critical Illness Plan who want to make changes MUST call the Benefit Harbor Enrollment Customer Service Department at **1-866-770-6395** Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST.

You will have access to view your current Accident or Critical Illness coverage online, but you cannot make changes to these products unless you call the enrollment customer service department previously listed. For additional questions or assistance with your current Accident or Critical Illness coverages, contact Angel Orozco, your on-site Humana representative at **554-8674** or email her at: **Aorozco@humana.com.**

GET YOUR FLU SHOTS

Flu shots for Humana-covered dependents will be offered during health fairs:

- Sept. 15 (Sat) - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Burnet Center
- Sept. 16 (Sun) - 1 to 5 p.m. at the SSS building, room 109