



Board Meeting

H I G H L I G H T S

Board meeting held on March 30, 2009 at David G. Burnet Center
406 Barrera. • San Antonio, TX 78210

Trustees recognize Academic Decathlon winners

The Board recognized teams from Burbank and Edison High Schools who participated in the Texas Academic Decathlon competition, the second largest academic program in the nation. The program provides high school students an opportunity to experience rigorous academic competition through participation in team activities. Burbank and Edison teams qualified for state based upon their performance at the regional competition

Five students were also honored for earning medals at the state competition held Feb. 27 – March 1 at San Antonio College. They are:

- Burbank HS: Adrian Adame, Joseph Sifuentes and Rogelio Garza. Burbank coaches are Laura Contreras and Brian Warren.
- Edison HS: Cody Cruz and Monica Ruel. Edison coaches are Amy Kosler and Juan Ramos.

The Board congratulates SAISD

Board members recognized recent reports on progress in academic improvement:

SAISD ranked 7th on a list of the top 10 districts in the nation experiencing the greatest rate of student improvement. The report is from the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C., which compared student performance on standardized tests in 37 of the nation's largest urban school districts with those from suburban and rural schools. While the report also states urban school district test scores still lag behind, it is encouraging that great strides are occurring to narrow that gap.

The District's preliminary results on TAKS, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, show that all Grade 8 campuses had more than 84 percent of their students pass the first administration of TAKS reading. And 12 out of 17 grade-8 campuses performed at the *exemplary* level with more than 90 percent passing TAKS.

Peace officers commissioned

School Board Vice President Carlos Villarreal administered the oath of office to Armando Olguin and Christopher Ortiz, SAISD's two newest police officers. The officers began their employment on Feb 23. Field training as experienced officers will follow the commissioning.

Juvenile Crime Trends in Bexar County

Judge Andy Mireles, Chairman of the Bexar County Juvenile Board recognized two areas of crime that have decreased – violence and children in need of supervision. Judge Mireles attributed this decline, in part, to the court's good working relationship with the District police department and the work of teachers and other District staff, in dealing with students after a first offense has occurred.

Board Policy Updates

The Board approved several policy amendments:

- CE (LOCAL) – Annual Operating Budget: wording in the policy was changed to reflect the current Texas Education Code which requires districts to post a summary on the District website. In addition a revision was made so that the budget shall be amended when a change is made to the fund balance.
- DHA (LOCAL) – Employee Standards of Conduct: This policy was revised to allow accredited institutes of higher education to provide information to employees regarding the attainment of advanced degrees.
- EEH (LOCAL) – Homebound Instruction: This policy was revised to match TEA’s Student Attendance Accounting Handbook so that students confined for a minimum of four weeks for medical reasons are eligible for homebound services. The weeks do not have to be consecutive.

Purchase orders approved

- Football supplies and equipment for secondary schools. These include bags, jerseys, helmets, socks, uniforms, shoulder pads, balls etc.
- Staff development for Special Education supervisors and lead teachers, and coaching in instructional strategies and on-campus technical support for classroom teachers. While all schools will benefit, the training specifically will focus on Brackenridge, Edison, Fox Tech and Highlands HS and their feeder middle schools.

Facilities update

- Trustees approved the upgrading of HVAC systems for Navarro, Poe, Brackenridge and Jefferson and the replacement of the HVAC at Longfellow.
- Trustees approved a proposal for the San Antonio Youth Centers to rent space at the Cooper building. The initial agreement of this partnership involves an SAYC drop-out recovery and GED academy at this site.

Humana provides a first quarter update to the Board

Wortham Insurance and Risk Management provided a quarterly update on the Humana health insurance program that the District has been participating in since November, 2008. The presentation included information on the following value-added initiatives also being provided by Humana:

- The Virgin Health Miles program which rewards employees for increased physical activity,
- Monthly meetings at various campuses that provide ongoing education on how to get the most out of the Humana plan,
- Health fairs: including flu shot clinics at various campuses throughout the District,
- Airrosti rehab centers to provide physical therapy as an alternative to some surgeries,
- WhiteGlove House Call service which sends healthcare professionals to the employees home or worksite.

For more information, please visit www.saisd.net

Board of Education

James Howard, President; Carlos Villarreal, Vice President, Thomas C. López, Secretary; Doug Sellers, Assistant Secretary; Olga M. Hernandez, Member; Eliseo E. Cadena, Member; Angie Ruiz, Member; Robert J. Durón, Superintendent