



DURÓN'S DIGEST

UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT J. DURÓN

SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
141 LAVACA • SAN ANTONIO, TX • (210) 299-5506



Tuesday, August 25, 2009

We're Back to School

The first day of school got off to a strong start yesterday. Our Washington ES was treated to an early morning visit from Mayor Julián Castro, Councilwoman Ivy Taylor, and our Board President James Howard, who came to welcome students and their parents. Several of our Trustees volunteered their time to assist new teachers at schools across the District, and I had the honor of joining new Jefferson HS teacher Holly Lennox on her first day of school. It's inspiring to be back in a classroom, and a reminder of the incredible opportunity and responsibility we have to improve lives through a quality education.

That's also what has made the community meetings we're holding so critical. Restructuring is truly about fulfilling our mission as a District. It's about making sure that every child we serve gets a real opportunity to prepare for life in a fast-changing world. And to get to a final plan for strengthening our District, we need to hear from the community. Last week we held three of the eight meetings to get community input on the draft proposals to restructure our District. No meetings will be held this week, due to a busy back-to-school week for parents, but the meetings begin again next week, September 1-3 at Burbank, Sam Houston and Lanier. I'm pleased that community members are showing up to share their views, helping us to work toward a final plan.

We have had questions on when actions would take place. It's important for everyone to understand that the restructuring is expected to be implemented over approximately 10 years, with much of it requiring a bond. Once we have a final plan approved by the Board (which we expect in late September), we will begin working out the sequence of implementation – which actions would occur in which phase. We expect that work on timing will be completed in early January, and then we'll be communicating that timeline broadly.

It's also important to know that as this is a long-term plan, the Board will re-evaluate the plan every couple of years against any significant changes within the community, to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the District and our students.

We're going to have another busy school year and I look forward to hearing of the many successes. And as a means for more communication from the District, I'm pleased to announce an additional option for news – SAISD is now on Twitter, a social media that allows users to post short messages. You can view our Twitter page and follow us at <http://twitter.com/saisd>.

Best regards,