

**SAISD Restructuring Meeting  
Edison High School  
August 18, 2009**

**6:10 Opening statement by Mr. James Howard**

This evening is the opportunity for you to provide to us what you like and what you don't like regarding these proposals.

**Mrs. Olga Hernandez**

Welcomed the community to the meeting

Taking the plan to the community for input...

Now it's time to take it to you

We want to hear your ideas / It's not just about emotions and ideas.

I hope we go away with the idea that it's about our children.

We are looking for what is best for our students today and not about yesterday.

**Dr. Durón**

We are here to learn more about the plans for restructuring our district.

Why would we go through restructuring and downsizing our district?

It's not something we want to do it's something we have to do

We have to act now; these plans will create a bright future for our students

We need to provide skills and the type of education that our students need to go on in life

We need to restructure in order to offer a quality education

This group has been meeting for 2 years now, and they have 3 solid proposals

Our students have to graduate with skills in order to earn more than the minimum wage

I understand that these buildings have a lot of history

Sometimes they go back 3-4 generations

We know that they are more than just a building but...

Success lies in what decisions we make today for the future of our children

We are already making substantial progress

We have had TAKS successes /Success in the Cooper Drop-Out Recovery Academy

We need to do our best to get our students college-ready

You understand that if enrollment goes down this means less money

We need programs that keep students engaged in schools

We need your thoughts and suggestions

**Mr. Sepulveda** - Overview of the Long Range Plan

**Mr. Bowers** - Overview of Gap Analysis Report...Focused on the future needs of SAISD

**Ms. Johns** - Overview of details of the plan / Current school structure / It is time for the committee to hear from you

**The speakers were instructed to:**

State your name

State which proposal you like

State what you like about it

State revision suggestions

**Speaker 1: Roberto Vazquez**

Proposal 1

Keep the train on the tracks and keep it moving

Stay focused on the facts and not on emotions

Keep the emotions out of the decisions

I have a law degree and I'm back, I can't get away

You can cut facilities but you cannot cut students' programs

You want more efficient facilities but we also have to have the Art and the Music

We must have technology for all students

Must focus on the kids / Go forward / Stay on track

**Speaker 2: Vic Castillo**

Proposal 3

Retired employee of SAISD with 35 years in education

Product of the SAISD – graduate of Brackenridge HS in 1963

I was a teacher, an athletic coordinator and an AP at Brackenridge High School

I'm here tonight to say that I vote for proposal 3

Brackenridge should remain a high school / it deserves to remain open

Brackenridge was recognized as one of the top high schools in the nation

To convert Brackenridge to a MS is a travesty / it's not logical

If it is not broken do not fix it

**Speaker 3: (left)**

**Speaker 4: Bob Comeaux**

I don't necessarily agree with your decision but I thank you for the work you have done

The district is heading in the wrong direction under all 3 plans

Hiring a public relations firm was a step in the right direction

I urge you to reject all proposals

Let us never stop talking about contracting out jobs

Employees can help rebuild the district

Don't close Sam Houston

Don't close charter schools

Do not rent or lease or sell current schools

Never allow this to happen

Let's keep what we have

Have faith in San Antonio and SAISD

Si se Puede

**Speaker 5 : Ruben Espronceda**

Product of SAISD / Burbank HS / Live in the Burbank area

This committee has seen a different view point since the election in May

You need to tweak the plans / Representation of the Southside is non existent

If you don't have this representation you won't have a clear picture of what is going on

You are not giving us all the information that we need

When the community is not involved that's when we have problems

Until leadership attitude changes about the community, then we will see a different attitude in the community of SAISD

Our vote is our voice and you should not deny us that

When representation was non-existent on that side of town, the plans were different

**Speaker 6: Lucy Eller**

Proposal 3

Proud of SAISD

We need compassion / it's compassion that counts

We need to get out in the street

We need to work together to stay together

We need to be responsible for our children

We do not want Sam Houston to close

Thank you Dr. Duron, you have our support

**Speaker 7: Ruth Rodriguez**

Proposal 1

Son attends Lamar ES ... this school will be closed under the plans

Sad to see Lamar close but understand why it has to close

My son's classes are small / I understand it's not reasonable for Lamar to remain open

I understand and expect us to be able to make these tough decisions

What I don't want is to see us back here addressing these same problems in the future

We have to make these tough decisions now

Our families are making tough decisions and SAISD needs to make tough decisions also

Additional comment: I am a graduate of Jefferson HS

**Speaker 8: John Miller**

Proposal: Disagree with all plans

I live by Cotton ES

I don't believe that this is about low enrollment you don't care about our schools

Committee is being manipulated by the leadership

**Speaker 9: left**

**Speaker 10: Genaro Solis**

I call myself a controversial man of God

You are doing a good job; however you are doing it the wrong way

We need the schools; we need to build more schools

**Speaker 11: Oscar Vicks**

Proposal

I was shock when I found out that we have a public relationship committee

We need to know about the committee before we start doing anything else

At least talk to the people that are committed first

Don't organize and then come tell us about it

Come and tell us and talk to us about it first

We have had four principals at Sam Houston

Ask the kids what is wrong with the school

I would like to take people on a tour of Sam Houston

Get other corporations to help us (CPS)

How much does it cost to build a school?

**Speaker 12: Gerardo Rodriguez**

Proposal 3

I have one comment:

I would like for the kids at Travis Early College to be able to join sports or any other extra curricular activities at their home school after school. It would not cost the district any money and parents would transport their own children to the home schools. It would just take a little extra time scheduling this into the kids schedule. We have level 5 parents at Travis ECHS.

**Speaker 13: no speaker**

**Speaker 14: Juanita Caldwell**

Proposal: None

I have a BA in English and in Administration

Save East Side Schools / You will devastate the East Side without a high school

I've been looking at this thing for about 8 days / just found out about these plans

But I'm here to stay 'till the end

I'm not in agreement with any of the proposals

No one will want to live or come to this area when there is not a HS in the East Side

We want to help our students

I will be mentoring children at SH this year; I will be looking for other people who will volunteer

It is devastating for our children to hear that their school is closing

I don't want to go back to an era where we have taxation without representation

I'm here to turn Sam Houston HS around

Give the public relations job to our teachers, students...let them do our PR

Give them a chance, let them do it themselves and you can save that money to help students

**Speaker 15: Deborah Parrish**

Proposal

Taught 25 years with SAISD at Cameron Academy

Mr. Vicks has been a great person for the schools / I can't believe that he is not on this committee

Why did we not know about these plans until I read them in the paper?

Communication is the problem.

We have a communication department but we don't communicate

We need communication from this district