

**SAISD Restructuring Meeting
Jefferson High School
August 20, 2009**

6:05 p.m. - Welcome by Chris Mendiola, Principal of Jefferson High School

Mr. James Howard - Opening Statement / Recognized Committee

Our purpose for restructuring our district is to provide an education that prepares our students for success. The Board will finalize the plan by late September or early October.

Mr. Ed Garza - Overview

Mr. Garza gave an overview of the process that the committee used to develop the three restructuring plans. He stressed the importance of working with the city to focus on urban growth in our city. Great things are happening in this neighborhood. We've got to reconnect.

Dr. Robert Durón - We all agree on 5 things

1. We all agree that we want our community to strengthen
2. Quality education for our students today is our only hope for our community's future
3. We must be as efficient with your tax dollars
4. We must improve the school district and in order to do this we have to change
5. Our students deserve the best facilities

These plans will help to create a bright future

Ladies and gentlemen, we can't fail

The effect of failure on this community will be devastating

Restructuring is about delivering on a promise...

The promise that all of our children have the skills to succeed

I don't want to be on watch when they say...SAISD should have done this (restructuring) back in 2009 – 2010. Let's turn that promise (restructuring for a better future for our students) into a reality.

Again, restructuring means...

Difficult choices

It's about equity in education

Life in a fast changing world

I appreciate your support and we look forward to your input and if necessary...

We may change our plans accordingly

Mr. Curtis Bowers - Gap Analysis

Focused on future needs of SAISD students

Clear feeder patterns

Used the gap analysis report to develop the boundaries

Entire district divided into small units

Studied current boundaries

Worked in small groups

Each small group shared their work and made suggestions

After identifying boundaries and after many hours of planning we shared our findings with the Board

We hope that these findings will make a better SAISD

Dr. Priscilla Canales - Overview of the 3 proposals that District is presenting

Presented the schools we presently have and the fact that we don't have straight feeder patterns. Spoke about our current structure; which schools have our largest population and which schools have our smallest population.

Proposal 1

- 5 High Schools - Edison, Jefferson, Lanier, Highlands, and new High School
- 2 Magnet High Schools – Fox Tech and a second school – Brack and Burbank would be MS
- 10 Middle Schools
- 39 Elementary campuses
- 6 PK-8 Campuses
 - Tafolla repurposed
- New high school would serve Sam Houston and Brackenridge students

Proposal 2

- 5 High Schools – Edison, Jefferson, Lanier, Highlands, and Wheatley
- 10 Middle Schools with Brack being a MS (average 1000 students)
- 39 Elementary Schools
- 6 PK-8 Campuses

Proposal 3

- 6 High Schools – Brack, Burbank, Edison, Jefferson, Lanier, with Wheatley the Magnet HS
- 11 Middle Schools
- 39 Elementary Campuses

7:15 p.m. - Roz gave directions to speakers

Leave the white card on the back table as you exit

Each speaker will have 3 minutes

There is a clock in the front to keep track of your time

If you have to leave we want to invite you tomorrow night or to one of our other meetings

The speakers were instructed to:

State your name

State which proposal you like

State what you like about the proposal / comments should be relevant

State revision suggestions

Speaker 1: - Mary Wilton : Pass

Speaker 2: Pamela Hodges, long time property owner

Proposal 2

I understand how emotionally tied one can become to a school

My husband graduated from JHS

I appreciate the time and dedication of this panel

Member of Redevelopment Task Force of Balcones Heights

Recently we have redesigned Balcones Heights

Balcones has embraced change

As a tax payer I want the best quality and the most efficient use of our land

In reviewing Plan 2 – I think this is the most cost effective plan

As a tax payer I appreciate the foresight and courage that SAISD is showing and...

That SAISD is planning for change rather than reacting to change later on

The community that values education attracts the best

Speaker 3: Ted Guerra, Baskin Council of PTAs; Jeff NA

Proposal 3

Daughters go to Baskin

Question - we have 8 Board members...

Will we go down to 6 Board members if we have fewer schools?

Response: It would be 7 members plus the Superintendent

I support proposal #3

A lot of parents are afraid or scared to send their children on to Middle School but...

Would be happy to send them to a PK8 Schools

I like that Mann will be brought back as a PK-8 school; it will take the stress off Longfellow

Good that YWLA is moving on to Woodlawn...that neighborhood needs help

We are growing / More people are moving back into this neighborhood

Changes in the neighborhood will hopefully bring back students...

Students who have gone on to Religious schools in the area and/or to Charter schools

Hopefully this will make TJHS a 5A High School again

Speaker 4: Josette Gonzalez

Proposal 3

My family lives in the TJ community

My family and I support proposal 3 with the exception that Sam Houston not close

I don't understand how there could have been an oversight in not asking Mr. Vic to be on committee

I like that Mann will be brought back to a PK-8. It should have never closed.

We need to help Sam Houston with their enrollment

PK-8 Mann will take stress off Longfellow

I want to say that we are growing, more professionals are moving into this neighborhood

Mr. Brown, Jefferson's Fine Art Magnet Coordinator is doing a wonderful job here at Jeff

Also, I think we need to Market our district decision to others

Speaker 5: Susie Navarro

Proposal

I am a retired teacher from SAISD

I need to study the proposals before I make a decision

My impression from the News is that you were focused on the buildings and not on the students

How many students will be in classes?

If you are going to have all these schools with big enrollments / how is this going to help our students?

How many students are going to be in each class?

What is going to happen to all these buildings?

We have spent a lot of money on these buildings already...And...

Why is Head Start in such a mess? What's going on?

I was trying to take my child to school today and they did not know where she was suppose to go

Speaker 6: Sandy Villarreal, Retired administrator with SAISD

Proposal

You have put in many hours into these plans / I honestly commend this group

SAISD is responsible when our tax money is not used wisely and...

Our tax payer money is not being used effectively with so many empty buildings

We do not have the same staff as for example Northside ISD

We do not have money allocated for Reading, Math, and Librarians

Without sufficient instructional personnel, our children will continue to have difficulties...
If you do not have resources at the elementary level our children will continue to have problems They
will have problems in MS and in HS - They will not be able to read or write properly
Make a decision and stick with it / whatever decision that is

Speaker 7: David Nelson - From Jefferson community / Teacher at Fenwick

Proposal

Our children are products of our district
I understand need for consolidation
We have way too many facilities to be able to do a good job
We have way too many properties and not enough students
We really want to know the time line – the parents in my school are very concerned about it
We want to know this before you come up with some kind of a bond issue
I don't mind a bond issue but I want to know what the district is going to do with empty buildings
What are you proposing to do with those buildings that are currently empty right now?
I see Cooper being used, but not wisely
I don't want any of my kids going to portable buildings, if this is so,
I will vote 'no' at the next bond election
We passed the bond in 2001 and now we are closing these schools that were refurbished
I want to see that this money is going to be used wisely
In plan 1 and 2 you have almost 900 more students / Where are the students coming from?
What the heck is green space?
Thank you for your efforts

Speaker 8: Josefina M. Artiaga (spoke through translator)

Proposal

A lot of people were silenced when they closed Mann MS
Before, all of my children could attend Mann, now they have to go to different schools
Sometime it seems that part of the district is talking apples and the others oranges
If our people did not have to be at work right now, this place would be packed
I get frustrated with all the papers that you send me, and this clock is making me very nervous
I have 4 beautiful children and I told them to take a good look at the Mayor...
That was our Mayor, now he's on the School Board; he's from here, from this neighborhood
I hope that you all are people (audience) who pray and...
I hope that you pray (pointing to audience) that all of these people can do something good for us

Speaker 9: Rob Sipes - President of Monticello Park Neighborhood Assn

Proposal 3

People ask me what ES children from this area attend
I can't ever give a straight answer...there are 3 elementary schools in this area
Each proposal will correct this problem
We need Magnet schools
Many kids will return to our schools if we have Magnet schools
As a parent I'm excited about proposal #3
Within 1 block of my home I know of 4 families that do not send their children to SAISD
If proposal #3 is chosen, many kids will return to SAISD schools

Speaker 10: Odelia Cantu

Proposal 3

Let Sam Houston remain open

Move W W White to Davis
Make W W White an Early Childhood School
Wheatley should be a PK6 or PK8
I don't like any of the plans
If I have to pick one it would be Proposal 3 but without closing Sam Houston
You are not closing Sam!

Speaker 11: Ruben Espronceda

Proposal

90 years ago my grandparents came from Mexico
We lived in the South Side...we didn't land at Plymouth Rock
Plymouth Rock landed on us
Several months ago the sleeping giant woke up...that is...Burbank
The community has asked me to come forward to let the committee know that...
The community will not let Burbank or Brack close
We are the community... we work and send our kids to schools that we enjoy
We enjoy our baseball games, etc.
If Burbank were to become a Magnet School it would mean that...
Only students that the district wants at Burbank will attend Burbank, but...
What will happen to our neighborhood kids? They have to be bused...
Please listen to us...We want Burbank to be a traditional school
We want you to know that we added the numbers...
You did save us 65 million (\$26?) when you closed schools
What do we want with that money? We want you to....
Give us a tax break with the money that you saved

Speaker 12

Proposal 3

Diane Mazuca

I am in favor of proposal 3. I want Horace Mann back.
We are currently moving my child because of the low ratings at Rhodes
The facilities that you want are going to cause children to be crammed
You are moving too many students into schools that can't handle that load of students
Dr. Duron, you indicated that the Board be careful with our tax money
I you are asking us to tighten our belts than you tighten your belts too

Speaker 13

Proposal – None – all 3 unacceptable

Jon Brown

I am a teacher in the community
It's not very clear why schools are closing and others are not
All three proposals are unacceptable
Asking us to vote for one of these proposals is like...
Asking us to screw our neighbors (neighborhood)
All three proposals will over crowd the schools
All research shows that the most effective schools are the ones that are NOT crowded
What about a real plan...?
If the Board is really interested, why pay \$\$ to hotels
Tax breaks are given to hotels and little money goes to our students
Duron and company don't work for us...

They work for the big companies...Duron works for the banks
The plan to close Sam Houston is racist...it's
Inner City against immigrants
Why don't we fire people starting from the top positions!

Speaker 14

Proposal

Linda Wilson

In 1975 there was a large closing in the Northeast side of SAISD
Look at the slide on the location of the people
History repeats itself
Last night I looked at your maps and all materials
Will you look at that map with population of students?
When you take an ES away from that neighborhood you are shutting down a neighborhood
This has happened before and lots of my neighbors left...I stayed for a while..later I left too...
That's another tax dollar that you lost
People look for ESs to be in their neighborhood
Parents are moving their kids out of public schools and putting them into store front schools
Parents are doing this because they want something different than what SAISD offers
Parents want a small learning environment...schools should not have to be so big
Parents will be complaining because the schools will be too big

Speaker 15

Proposal

Raymond Zavala

How many of you (committee) actually live in the SAISD School District
The majority of you do while there are some of you others that don't
How did SAISD get the Early Childhood program?
They got it because someone forgot to fill out the paper work
I don't agree with neither plan...More does not mean better
Where are you going to put the SH kids?
I am a product of Lanier HS
Poor planning – the district has spent money renovating schools and then shutting them down
Wasteful spending – WE need education, not a specialized art school
Bowie is now Ford Academy with Art classes
How about employees?

Speaker 16

Proposal

Faris Hodge, Jr.

Turn down the air condition in this room and save money that way
Pay your employees more money
There is a drug problem in all schools
Sam Houston area has a large number of kids going to jail
SAISD could not hire enough policemen to pick up children that don't go to school
Every time a child is skipping send them to juvenile
Regular Board meetings should start at 6:30 p.m.
I'm jumping off the bus just trying to make the meetings
Our drop-out rate is a major problem
The police say it's not their job to pick up those kids that are skipping school

What happened to Reading, Writing and Arithmetic?
What's all this about Art, etc...
If they can't read and write they can't get a job...kids can't read...and they can't add!
You're talking about getting emotional...get emotional when your kids can't read
They are going to jail because they don't have a job

Speaker 17

Proposal

Rene Joy McGee, Sam Houston PTA

Rene Joy McGee proud Sam Houston graduate
My son is a Jr at SH, a football player, in the golf team, and in the Aerospace program
It's not just about the building it's about our youth
I went to the SAISD Web Site
In Plan 1 – SH is on the chopping block
In Plan 2 – SH is on the chopping block
In Plan 3 – SH is on the chopping block
I cry at the unjust closing of SH, at the inequity against the East Side
We pay taxes to SAISD and we've been robbed
It's a travesty...after paying so many taxes, you're still closing SH
We appose any proposal that devalues the inner city
We do not go for any of these plans
Closing SH will devalue our property value...
We will let our businesses down, I say No, No, No!

Speaker 18

Proposal

Gerardo Rodriguez

I live in this area...we loved Mann and they closed it
I can imagine how the SH people feel about the closing of their high school...
It's like losing your identity
It's a bad thing to close that school
You are innovative, I commend you
I'm going for plan 3 – but do not close Sam Houston

Speaker 19

Proposal

Oscar Vicks

I set forth an effort to make every meeting
I want you all to know that this is the first meeting that I've been to (crying)...
That this is the first meeting where we don't feel like we're alone at Sam Houston
This is a land for all of us – This is a land of opportunity
I have only one grand child left...the lady who spoke earlier has 4 that she is speaking for
I'm going to tell you all something
You're preparing for building new schools, prepare for a decrease in enrollment
If you close SH they are not going to go across town
Why do you think that our students don't go to school?
If you close Sam Houston then you will see more kids going to school outside the district
We are concerned about all of our kids