

**SAISD Restructuring Meeting
Lanier High School
September 4, 2009**

6:07 p.m. - Welcome by Beatriz Hammoudeh, 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. Tom Lopez - 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

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

Ms. Sandra Ojeda-Medina – Committee member - Gave an overview of the four Phases.

Mr. Ben Garcia - 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

Liz Melson - 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

7:00 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, retired ESL teacher, attended St. Mary's, served in the Army reserves Proposal

Work for SAISD 24 year and is a long time member of the community
We have freedom, not all students need to go to college, what is wrong with people who serve in technical, skilled labor jobs.
Previously our schools were doing well; now we are academically unacceptable. Your staff has failed.
When I was in the district if I did not do my job, you have fired my ---
Dr. Duron is not doing his job...he is not being truthful about the district's rating...he is not the person that people think he is, he is not the right person for this job
Has not hired a mariachi teacher at Jefferson

Speaker 2: Patrick Lopez, native of San Antonio, product of SAISD, is a teacher Proposal

I have child that attend SAISD and they are highly accomplished

All my children has been affected by restructuring of the district
One moved from for Fox Tech to Jefferson and has been affected by UIL rules
One attends Brackenridge and is in the multilingual program, he will be affected by the change at Brackenridge, where will he continue his multilingual studies?
My son at Tafolla will be affected by the restructuring of Burbank
Busing is not an option for my child.
I disagree with each of these plans.

Speaker 3: Michelle Reyes, has attended 6 meetings

Proposal

Michelle Reyes, League of Public Justice

You think that Lanier will not be affected because your school will not close; but if Burbank closes than those students will go to Lanier. You are being affected. People should be outraged, why are there not more people at this meeting. You should call other community members to attend all of the meetings. YWLA is exemplary because only 125 9th grade students go to that campus. Why is this school not available for our boys?

Fox Tech students do not have dual credit classes because someone in the district did not do their job and file the proper paper work. What is going to happen when the schools are bigger? More mistakes...

Speaker 4: Julian Navarro, graduated of Lanier, retired military

Proposal 3

How many of the committee members live in SAISD area?

What is the plan for closing schools? We remodel schools then close them

I feel that the district is wasting tax money. Not everyone is going to earn a college degree. Is the district taking this into consideration? Being a mechanic is a good profession, we need auto mechanics. We need technical schools.

Son was told to dropout of school because he would never graduate.

I hold this committee and the school board members responsible for the short comings, district and campus ratings, etc.

Speaker 5: Mr. Faris Hodge, active community member from the Sam Houston area

Proposal

You can save money in the schools if you would turn the air down...it is too cold.

Why is the district opening all girls' school? We are supposed to integrate, why are we not doing this?

Hated to see Sam Houston close down, the gangs are taking over the school. As a young person I have had experienced and was exposed to gang-like treatment and our district needs to address this problem as well so we can have quality schools for our kids.

Not everyone what to go to college...they can work at Toyota.

Speaker 6: Father Edward Boven, St. Timothy Church

Proposal

I have been a teacher for 20 years.

When people have problems they need someone to talk to. If campuses become more populated how can school administrators address students' needs?

Neighborhood elementary schools are nice because kids can walk to school. If schools are closed then transportation will become a problem.

Schools with 2000 – 4000 students were not very popular in the 80; why are we going back to big schools?

Speaker 7 Maria D. Martinez

Proposal

I had three nephews that were thrown out of Fox Tech HS, the principal wanted to punish their students for call his mother on the cell phone by making them “wash her/principal’s truck”. Speaker claims that her nephew stated that “They (administrators) are ignoring us (students) because we are from Mexico”. The same principal told nephew, “what are you/student doing here; I (principal) thought you were going to be a drop out!” Speaker’s children are making good grades at Barkley-Ruiz, Tafolla, etc., why isn’t the district telling the truth? SAISD has good schools and they (district) are not telling us about it. With this plan the community will lose good staff, and therefore lose as a community.

Why are you only doing things to the bad schools not the good schools?

Speaker 8: Isabel Sanchez, been a long time supporter of SAISD

Proposal

She has raised 6 children, 5 went to college, and these children went to Ivy League schools and have professional careers. They are all products of SAISD, if this design worked in the past why can’t it work now? Why do we need to build new schools I have seen evidence of this and do not want any of the district’s current schools to close.

Speaker 9 Graciela Sanchez

Proposal

My mother was part of the class of 1942 at Lanier and has been my inspiration, hero. I went to Barkley-Ruiz, Cooper and graduated from Lanier in 1987. The district needs to stop being wasteful, A/C is too cold in this building and this is costing money, etc. Why did the district spend millions of dollars on building new buildings just to tear them down? We need to be “green” by fixing existing buildings. Cooper MS was closed down and the building is not being used wisely. Speaking of schools “small is good”, and this yields results. I am an example of this; I went to a small school which led to me attending an Ivy League school.

Keep Sam Houston

I walked to my school. I walked tonight. We are poor and do not have car

Speaker 10 Patti Garcia, League of Public School Justice

Proposal

When you do not meet AYP, you have (2 or 4?) years to correct the problem; this is the reason Sam Houston is going to close down. They did not do anything to help Sam Houston. Jefferson did not meet AYP. I received a letter about Jefferson. There has been a revolving door when it comes to principals at these schools. This shows poor leadership, I raised wonderful children and I encouraged parents to raise good children who do well in school.

I am treated like dirty when I walk into the Jefferson.

I am from Horace Mann read a quote from H. Mann, “Relationship between education and government...do not be complacent.”

Speaker 11 Juana Garcia, former student of Cooper MS, who dropped out of school

Proposal

It really hurt me when you closed Cooper. My son now goes to Tafolla and needs transportation. Kids have to walk from Barkley-Ruiz to Tafolla and I just want the kids to be safe and the district needs to help with this. I am asking Dr. Duron to look into this matter and address it for the “safety and well being of our kids”. Keep you word about the transportation.

I went to Fox Tech and they disrespected me; it because we are on the west side.