



DURÓN'S DIGEST

UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT J. DURÓN

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SAISD Evolves

Successful entities continually take stock of where they've been, where they are and where they want to be as an organization. Our District has evolved and we must ensure that top quality teaching and learning programs and facilities continue to be in place.

SAISD is in the process of defining a strategic plan to deliver excellence, equity and efficiency in the face of declining student enrollment, surplus school capacity and the rising cost to maintain and operate aging facilities. This long-range planning, again, will have the input of a community-based task force as part of Phase III of four phases. The work of the task force began this week and will involve adjusting attendance boundaries.

The first phase was a visioning session. The slate was wiped clean and the committee set standards for facilities and programs they would like to see for our students. Phase II explored a gap analysis -- where we want to be versus where we are and what it would take to get there. Phase III will re-focus on how to fit our current schools to meet those standards. The Committee will review demographic projections, school capacities with current programs and school boundaries. This phase could address more school consolidations as we strive to make our District stronger. Finally, Phase IV will take on the mission of transforming facilities through a bond program that will be presented to the community.

The minutes and materials presented at the meetings will be posted on the SAISD Web site. For a list of meetings click below

http://www.saisd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=291&Itemid=131

In closing, this initiative is directly related to improving our schools through improved academics and facilities and preparing our children and grandchildren to succeed in a 21st century world and workplace. I invite you to attend the meetings and be informed as the process unfolds to re-shaping our District to meet future needs.

Giving Thanks

I appreciate each of you for what you do on behalf of our students and community. In a couple of weeks, we will take a week's break for Thanksgiving. I didn't want the holiday season to commence without expressing my gratitude to you for your commitment and hours of devotion and to recognize the passion you put into your support of our mission. I simply say, *¡gracias!*

Sincerely,