

Your Link To The News Within SAISD

Summer special

June 26, 2014

School Board extends Dr. Sylvester Perez's contract thru 2016



Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez

In an unanimous decision, Trustees approved adding an additional year to the superintendent's contract.

The action, taken at the June 16 School Board meeting, followed Dr. Sylvester Perez's first-year

"Dr. Perez had a successful evaluation. The entire Board has full confidence in Dr. Perez's leadership," said Board President Ed Garza

"The Board has been pleased with the positive changes we have seen in staffing re-organization, employee morale, teacher salaries, the District's financial health, as well as the strategic focus placed on student academic achievement and Bond 2010 implementation."

Perez was hired as the District's 18th superintendent in June 2013 after serving as interim since March 2012.

His contract, which would have ended next June, has been extended through June 30, 2016.

SAISD'S East Side-area schools take center court and stage

From efforts to better serve their communities to hosting a national education leader and scoring assistance from the 2014 NBA champs to help prepare youngsters for victory in the game of life, it's been a stellar summer for the District's East Side.

WELCOME TO WHEATLEY!

Now underway: an all-new Wheatley MS, specially designed to be an asset not only for students, but their families and neighbors too.

The goal is part of the landmark site's designation as an EastPoint community host school, and implementation will follow a series of public input-gathering meetings.

"This school will offer many services our families need," said Dr. Mateen Diop, SAISD's executive director for projects and partnerships.

"The effort is being completed at a grassroots level, meaning the community is telling us what they want and sometimes have difficulty acquiring, often due to lack of transportation."



Participants review campus blueprints at the second of three New Wheatley Community School meetings.

To accommodate a variety of needs, Wheatley could become a "one-stop shop" of services and resources. Among those being suggested include a community-based clinic, community tech center, behavioral health services, social services, job training, mentoring and tutoring programs, English as a Second Language classes, college-readiness, youth enrichment, an expanded over-age student program and more.

Residents excited about the prospect include Tiffany Thompson, who is part of the planning process.

"It will give the parents and the students an opportunity to get further and receive the support they need and help the parents and the students know what's going on in their community, as well as their schools," said the single mother of three.



As Gregorio Velazquez, Tynan ECEC director looks on student Mauricio Mora welcomes guests including (I to r) SAISD Deputy Superintendent Emilio Castro, parent Amanda Garcia and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Her oldest son goes to Wheatley, while her youngest boy and a daughter are students at Bowden ES. Thompson attended the East Side's Washington ES from kinder to 4th-grade and returned to the area four-and-half years ago.

"We are looking forward to the new changes and planned changes in the community and within the school district. Our family is behind the school district 100 percent," she said.

The first two meetings, held May 6 and June 10, provided participants an opportunity to review existing conditions and suggest programs and partnerships. The purpose of the last meeting, set for July 8, will be to develop a prioritized action plan for presentation to District leaders, with architectural advice and concept planning to follow.

An event kickoff is planned for a Saturday this fall with some programs expected to begin implementation in early 2015.

Wheatley's status as one of SAISD's halfdozen federal Promise Neighborhood schools made it eligible for the District to apply for grants to fund the initiative, Diop said.

District partners in this effort include the San Antonio Housing Authority's Choice Neighborhood Initiative and United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

Wheatley joins several campuses nationwide partnering with their communities in an integrated focus on academics, health and social services for improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.

STILL TIME TO PARTICIPATE The final community meeting will be: July 8 (Tues) - 5:30 p.m.

The U.S. Secretary of Education led a town hall meeting at the Tynan ECEC where he also praised the efforts of educators and parents for their roles in the area's revitalization.

Arne Duncan's visit highlighted the federal Promise Zone initiative. Tynan and five other East Side SAISD campuses are part beneficiaries through grants awarded to the local United Way focusing on the vital connection between school and neighborhood success.

The meeting included a panel discussion on education during which participants were invited to ask Duncan and District Deputy Superintendent Emilio Castro questions.

PART OF A WINNING TEAM



Students and staff at Bowden ES had extra cause for celebration when the San Antonio Spurs reached the finals - an NBA Cares Learn and Play Center.

Prior to winning the world championship, the team took

time out from their series with the Miami Heat for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the state-ofthe-art center featuring a library makeover, new TVs, computers, tablets and a reading space filled with books.

Partners included State Farm Insurance, Samsung Mobil USA and United Way.

Each year the two teams making the NBA finals sponsor a Learn and Play Center for their cities.

Wheatley MS was a 2013 recipient.



Celebrants at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Bowden ES NBA Cares Learn and Play Center include coach Gregg Popovich (in blue) and (right) Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez.

SAISD's own 'Sabado' super star

Her stupendous performance of "La Malagueña" on the popular Univision Spanish-language program "Sabado Gigante," or "Giant Saturday," earned Isabel Marie Sanchez \$1,000 and expanded her fan base to the international level.

The 11-year-old just completed 5th-grade at Maverick ES.

See Isabel on TV

Check out her June 14 performance on the world's longest-running TV variety series at: www.youtube.com.

Catch a live performance

SAISD's own singing sensation is slated to perform the National Anthem at the District's annual Employee Convocation on Aug. 20.



Prior to traveling to Miami for her "Sabado Gigante" performance, Isabel Marie Sanchez was sent off with festivities featuring Fiesta royalty. Shown introducing Isabel is Linda Nance, who retired as Maverick ES principal at the end of the school year.

Fulbright Award recipient bound for New Zealand



Cheri McNeely will have a whole new perspective and valuable lessons to share with her students and colleagues when she returns to Whittier MS in 2015. The 7th-grade science teacher is headed to the Pacific Ocean island country of New Zealand to conduct research as a Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching grant recipient.

McNeely is one of approximately 43 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad in 2014-15

through the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program.

This flagship international educational exchange program is sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries.

SAISD Bond 2010 marking milestones and progress

Work is progressing this summer in anticipation of finished projects in time for the new school year. One of our most heralded nearing completion is Alamo Stadium, whose splendor is set to be shown off at an August open house.

In addition to the new restrooms, locker rooms, concession, press box and Americans with Disabilities Act access, the stadium will receive new turf. Designed for a more user-friendly experience, this turf features a more natural feel and resilient "bounce" cushion which will deliver a much better marching and playing experience for students on the field. The new turf also is striped to accommodate student soccer, a first for Alamo Stadium.



Alamo Stadium boasts a state-of-the-art Daktronics digital scoreboard and new user-friendly turf.

Now up and on display is the stadium's new Daktronics digital scoreboard. Exemplifying the latest 21st-century technology, the scoreboard will allow spectators to enjoy its video replay capabilities, as well as real time "fans-in-the-stands" shots, close ups of teams, spirit leaders and the bands. The camera work will be provided by SAISD media students, who will roam the field and the stands for a more personal game experience.

Together with the adjacent Convocation Center, which opened this past January, the duo is receiving \$35 million in renovations with projects on schedule and on budget.

Another area of anticipation is the progress of SAISD high school renovations. Two are slated for completion of a significant phase of their construction this summer.

Brackenridge's \$21.1 million project includes partial renovations to the main building, as well as a new three-story career and technical education structure to house the school's career programs including the Media Productions and World Languages Magnet programs.

Across town, Edison is making great strides. Its \$26.1 million renovation project includes a new



Workers prepare the Brackenridge career and technical education building, one of eight slated for District high schools through SAISD Bond 2010.

career and technical education building to house the JROTC program, a marketing classroom, an education and training area, animation lab, computer labs and more.

Work to expand the cafeteria kitchen and renovate second-floor classrooms began this summer, and the new school year will launch a renovated science wing and life skills classrooms.

They are among eight District high schools benefitting from SAISD Bond 2010. In all, 22 campuses across the District are receiving major renovations.

For the latest information visit: www.saisd.net/bondprojects.

New District appointments and assignments announced

Matthew Weber, Superintendent's Office deputy superintendent for instruction Formerly: associate superintendent McAllen ISD

Stanton Lawrence, school leadership assistant superintendent

Formerly: Normandy School District (St. Louis, Mo.) superintendent

Michael Jordan, satellite campuses director Formerly: Irving MS principal

Lorna Klokkenga, school improvement officer Formerly: Highlands HS principal

HIGH SCHOOLS

Derrick Cade, Highlands HS principal Formerly: M.L. King Academy principal

Christopher Castro, Brackenridge HS principal Formerly: Twain MS principal

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Eduardo Davila, Poe MS principal Formerly: Franklin ES principal

Ricky Flores, Twain MS principal Formerly: Burbank HS asst. principal

Stacey Lewis, Davis MS principal Formerly: Foster ES principal

Linda Marsh, Irving MS principal Formerly: Superintendent's Office District shepherd

ACADEMIES

Lewis Barr, Cooper Academy principal Formerly: Poe MS principal

Natasha Pinnix, M. L. King Academy principal Formerly: Steele ES principal

ELEMENTARIES

Graciela Luna Buster, Franklin ES principal Formerly: Franklin ES asst. principal

Joseph Cerna, Highland Park ES principal Formerly: De Zavala ES principal

Anna Garcia, Crockett ES principal Formerly: Sarah King ES principal

Lisa Frost Garcia, Sarah King ES principal Formerly: Knox ECEC director

Natasha Gould, Japhet ES principal Formerly: W.W. White ES asst. principal

Lorraine Martinez, Huppertz ES principal Formerly: Woodlawn ES asst. principal

Yolanda Mendoza, Steele ES principal Formerly: Bonham Academy asst. principal

Anita O' Neal, Bowden ES principal Formerly: Davis MS principal

Laura Roberts, Maverick ES principal Formerly: Woodlawn Hills ES principal Joseph Rodriguez, Cotton ES principal Formerly: Neal ES asst. principal

Elizabeth Rojas, De Zavala ES principal Formerly: Human Resources Dept. coordinator

Jeanette Vasquez, Rogers ES principal Formerly: Brackenridge HS interim principal

Francisca Whitaker, Woodlawn Hills ES principal Formerly: Huppertz ES principal

TaLisa Wilson, Foster ES principal Formerly: M.L. King Academy asst. principal

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

David Chavarria, Knox ECEC principal Formerly: Baskin ES asst. principal



SAISD will be closed June 30-July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday and reopen on Monday, July 7.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



Summer in **SAISD**

Availing themselves of fun learning opportunities including taking bows at center stage are just some of the ways District students and staff are spending summer 2014. These are just a few examples.



Leading their castmates in a rendition of "Tomorrow" are Daddy Warbucks and Annie, played by incoming Jefferson HS seniors David Peres and Destiny Cantu. Joining them is Sandy, whose portrayer Christopher Fiere, will be an 8th-grader this fall at Rhodes MS. The trio was among aspiring thespians in grades 6-12 performing "Annie Jr.," an adaptation of the Emmy award-winning musical based upon the classic comic strip "Little Orphan Annie." The production was the grand finale for SAISD's two-week summer musical theatre camp.



As Honest Abe appears to beam down upon them approvingly, Rhodes MS students and teacher William Davis hold their banner high at the Lincoln Memorial. This annual summer trip to Washington, D.C., brings history and civics lessons to life for the adventurous scholars. In addition to seeing the White House, U.S. Capitol and the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery, they toured the National Museum of American History and more. Cost for the annual trip is offset through donations

Courtesy photo



Swellyn Silva shows off the self portrait that earned the 2014 Brackenridge HS graduate a free trip to Washington, D.C., this summer where her art will be on display through June 2015. She was recognized at her school by U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett as the Congressional Art Competition winner for District 35. With her is teacher Theresa Ybanez. Swellyn is the second consecutive Brackenridge student to achieve this honor.



Designing and testing buildings to withstand an earthquake are these participants at the STEM-Special Projects session for grades 3-5. This hands-on activity was one of more than 30 offered to elementary-level educators Districtwide at the fourth-annual SAISD Science Academy for Teachers. The summer-learning event at the Education Service Center Region 20 provided a variety of lessons teachers can share with their students to make science more engaging.



Aspiring architects get a jump start on this career through participation in the Design Studio Summer Career Academy at Jefferson HS. Projects included creating a model home. This was just one of 30 career-focused academies held for SAISD's incoming 10th-graders this summer as part of the GEAR UP college-prep program.

Visually impaired students stop and smell the flowers and other fragrances at the Wilson ES garden. Stimulating the senses was an important part of their instruction during the annual VI Camp, serving elementary- and middle school-level students of varying degrees of visual loss. This was



among several of their learning opportunities including academics, art, cooking, technology and educational field trips that also taught them independence. Shown with them are orientation and mobility specialist Susana Milewich (foreground) and Cynthia Capp (background, right), a Green ES instructional assistant.



Clinician Roland Sandoval from NISD's O'Conner HS directs students participating in the fifth-annual Alamo City Band Camp, which provided more than 250 young musicians an opportunity to improve their performing skills through both individualized and group training led by SAISD band directors and other professional musicians.



Whittier MS-area residents get into the fitness groove while enjoying fun ways to get in shape this summer, right in their own neighborhood. The campus is one of the city's eight host sites for the 2014 Fit Family Challenge to run through Aug. 8. The program is presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and organized by San Antonio Sports.



San Antonio Independent School District

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