



DURÓN'S DIGEST

UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT J. DURÓN

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Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Preparing the Plans for Community Comment

Today we announced the recommendations for restructuring the District, developed by the community-based Facilities Long-Range Planning Committee—along with the dates and locations for several public meetings to solicit community input:

- August 18 (Tues) 6 p.m. at Edison HS, 701 Santa Monica Dr.
- August 19 (Weds) 6 p.m. at Brackenridge HS, 400 Eagleland Dr.
- August 20 (Thurs) 6 p.m. at Jefferson HS, 723 Donaldson Ave.
- September 1 (Tues) 6 p.m. at Burbank HS, 1002 Edwards St.
- September 2 (Weds) 6 p.m. at Sam Houston HS, 4635 E. Houston St.
- September 3 (Thurs) 6 p.m. at Lanier HS, 1514 W. Durango Blvd.
- September 8 (Tues) 6 p.m. at Highlands HS, 3118 Elgin Ave.
- September 9 (Weds) 6 p.m. at Fox Tech HS, 637 N. Main Ave.

These public meetings represent the next major step in the restructuring process: Obtaining input from those who will be directly affected. Then, after the committee has incorporated what it hears from the community, the Board will meet to formally approve a final restructuring plan.

We are grateful for all those who have contributed to this process—committee members, the Board of Trustees, administration and other supporters of our District, all who have worked toward making the restructuring plan a reality.

Why is such a plan needed? Simply put, this is key to our ability to advance the District both academically and fiscally. While differing in detail, each of the three committee proposals would help to build a stronger school District with greater educational opportunities and resources for our students; and each would help the District's bottom line, saving SAISD between \$34 million – \$40 million annually, depending upon which plan is implemented. This means diverting more dollars into the classroom and into programs directly benefitting our students, thus getting more value for our tax dollars.

All three proposals call for extensive repurposing, consolidation and modernization of our schools—the details of which you can find at this link: www.saisd.net. In broad outlines, two of the plans would create attendance areas for five traditional high schools and their associated feeder schools (down from eight high schools today); the third plan envisions attendance areas for six high schools and their feeder schools. The proposals call for 15-19 fewer schools over the next 10 years, depending on the plan.

It's worth noting that none of the actions outlined in the proposals would occur before the 2010-11 school year. Most of the changes would take place over a ten-year time horizon—following the bond approval that would be required for implementation.

Finally, it's also important to note that the benefits of restructuring go well beyond consolidating buildings. Ultimately, this process will mean that every SAISD school is able to offer a complete range of classes, academic resources and other programs to provide a strong foundation for college and career success. It's this goal that makes the hard work of restructuring worthwhile. We encourage you to participate in the effort—and we appreciate all you do to help us keep our promises to students, parents and the San Antonio community.

Sincerely,