# SAISD Restructuring Meeting Brackenridge High School August 19, 2009

# 6:03 Welcome by Linda Marsh, Principal of Brackenridge High School

#### 6:05 p.m. Mr. James Howard - Opening statement

This evening is the opportunity for you to provide us with constructive input about what you like or don't like regarding three restructuring proposals. You, the community at large have a big stake in this decision. The Board will finalize the plan by late September or early October.

# Mr. Ruben D. Cuero, District 1 Trustee – Overview of the process that the committee used to develop the three restructuring plans

It's been an honor to work with the people who have been involved in this process.

This is a long-term plan, one that expands 10 years.

We want to build a stronger school district.

We understand that it won't be easy but we face a harsh reality

We want to be good stewards of your tax money.

Espero que las personas que hablan español que tambien contribuyen su opinion (I hope that persons who speak spanish will also contribute their opinion)

#### Dr. Durón

Most important, is that I do my part to answer the question 'WHY?' Why restructure?

We may disagree on some things but there are more things that we agree on

We want our community to strengthen / Schools must succeed / Our students deserve this

We have to act now; these plans will create a bright future for our students

We must be efficient with your tax money

Our purpose is to improve lives through a quality education

Back in the day, there were opportunities for students who dropped out of school

Drop outs are more devastating to our community now because they can't engage

Our mission is to see that our students can engage in a system beyond minimum wage

It is not easy to say good-bye to our schools. Truth is, fond memories are not going to help our

children 10-15 years from now our children have to be able to compete with other youth of San Antonio

Restructuring is about making sure that all of our children have the skills necessary to make it

SAISD is about producing College-Ready students

Restructuring will provide a much stronger foundation for our students to get a jump start

We all have a stake in this. We now have three workable plans that will put our ultimate goal at reach.

Our intention and desire is very clear

We need your thoughtful suggestions we are very sincere in wanting to hear your suggestions

# Mr. Gilberto Sepulveda - Overview of the phases

Phase I - Visioning

Phase 2 - Facilities Implications

Phase 3 - Boundary Development (39 members developed the plan)

Phase 4 - Transformation of District Facilities (with Board approval)

### Mr. Miguel Martel - Reviewed Demographics

Focused on future needs of SAISD students

Clear feeder patterns

Used the gap analysis report to develop the boundaries

Worked in small groups

Each small group shared their work and made suggestions

After many hours of planning we shared our findings with the Board

#### Ms. Liz Melson - Overview of details of the three plans (hand-out)

Boundaries - 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
- 39 Elementary Campuses (size 768)

## 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

### Proposal 3

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

# The speakers were instructed to:

State your name

State which proposal you like

State what you like about it

State revision suggestions

Leave your white card on the back table as you exit

Each speaker will have 3 minutes

We're beginning with speaker # 17

Comments should be relevant and about proposals

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

# Speaker 17 (#1): Walter Brown math teacher at Brack for 8 years and community member Proposal: 3

Inspiration Award Winner 2007 - One of 3 high schools to receive this award

Student that was 71<sup>st</sup> in class received \$1 million dollars

We send students to Ivy League Colleges

We don't just have a past and a present but we have a future – please consider this

# Speaker 18: Jimmy Ward

#### **Proposal:**

Live in SAISD since I was 21 years old

My 2 children are proud SAISD school products

Hard decisions have to be made by all of us but...

No other school has produced as many productive students as Brack

We have not money to build new schools

Do not start talking about closing schools when we have no money 2 Schools that you should never talk about closing are Jeff and Brack You will bring on the wrath of the Eagle Nation Don't do it, don't do it

## Speaker 19: John Alcoces

#### **Proposal**

New families will be coming into the Brack community Can our community afford to close it down?

#### **Speaker 20: James Martinez**

# **Proposal**

As a tax payer I appreciate the concern that you have

But as a former Brack student my heart goes out to keep this school open

Brack is already doing what Dr. Duron wants

We are modeling the school you want to create

We have a lot of tradition and that should not be the reason to keep it open

The reason why is because of the proven programs that we have here, AP new Dual Credit, etc.

I appreciate that you are optimizing our buildings

I understand the whole volume ratio

But how can you recreate this school?

## Speaker 21: Diana Martinez

## **Proposal 3**

After 31 years of teaching in our district I have had to live with the consequences

I know that we have to close schools

I don't see the purpose of repurposing Brack

Brack is the best HS to accomplish SAISD's mission

85-90 % was admitted into college

These successes will not transfer to another school

Brack offers 18 advanced courses, more than any other HS in SAISD

There is no guarantee that this program can be duplicated anywhere else...

If it could be, than the other high schools would have the same records as Brack

We can not and must not deny other future students to attend this great school

Consider the educational impact that the closure of this school will have

Do not combine Brack with another HS...

Do not make it a MS

Do not close Brackenridge High School

#### Speaker 22: Ernest D. Hernandez

# Proposal 3

This is a somber day...we have not come to an agreement to serve the better

It may be inevitable that some schools have to close...

But look at performance and success of Brack

Test us in this...we are worthy to carry the district to their goal

Meet us half way / There is greatness within us

Give us a period of time to demonstrate it, we can be a shining star in the future

Give us a chance to show you that Brack can be a bright star

# Speaker 23: Vic Castillo - Former Student and an AP at Brack before retiring Proposal 3

Thank you for your commitment but one constructive criticism...

Reduce the number of members in the committee

The district should make the effort to equally distribute where the members come from

Brack is a stand alone HS / the only HS to bring national recognition to SAISD

Top HS in district / 85-90% of last year's graduating class was college bound

Brack is an academic leader

I urge to support Proposal 3

Brack Football State Champ class of 1962 is here tonight

### Speaker 24: Alejandrina Garcia

# **Proposal**

I hear about closings but I've yet to hear about where the Sp Ed students are being placed

Sp Ed students are the forgotten population in this district

I'm going to fight for the rights of these students

Don't isolate these students

### Speaker 25: Lydia Campos

# **Proposal**

I am an alumnus of Brack HS but before graduating they changed our name

I'm hoping that this time our voice will be heard

Many graduates from this school in many fields

In large schools not all students get to participate in sports and band

The exemplary schools are all small schools

It seems that we want mega schools like Stevens...what about transportation

What about the over crowdedness – hardly anyone makes it to activities because of no room

Small schools give more attention to students

#### Speaker 26: Ruben Espronceda

#### **Proposal 3**

My family has lived in the Brack area for 90 years

I'm banned from telling you that plan 3 is the best plan

Leadership – you have the freedom to choose your actions but...

You don't have the freedom of your actions

Rookies don't really understand the community

On occasion they take their emotions to the job

We need a change of leadership from the top because they don't have the knowledge or the experience

We need new leadership because they do not have the maturity to make these decisions

We have a voice and we'll have a vote

## Speaker 27: Diane Chase

#### **Proposal 3**

I am an out of district transfer

Save Hawthorne

We are pleased with the dedication of the Principal, AP and teachers

4 years recognized and 2 years as Exemplary

There is a waiting list to get into Hawthorne

Trinity professors send their children to Hawthorne

Students deserve to thrive at Hawthorne

Hawthorne will draw more parents / students but not if Hawthorne is restructured

## Speaker 28: Claudis Minor Class of 63

My proudest recollection is when a Board member told Tom Frost...I do not tell you how to run the bank, so do not tell me how to run the district

# Speaker 29: R. Joy McGhee – Proud 1985 Grad of Sam Houston HS Proposal

I stand here with heavy heart as I look at the plans that you have presented

There are 3 plans and all show that Sam Houston should close

How do you expect me to vote for any one of these 3 proposals?

I walked through SH this week and saw beautiful students with pride in their school

I remember the pride I felt when I went to SH High School

Why don't we get the same attention as the other side of town?

There is no reason why we should have to bus our students out of their own community

I say it seems to me that SH has been left out of the positive press

The only plan that seems promising seems plan #1 but we still need to talk about this

Don't leave any community void of a High School

# **Speaker 30: Tracey Jordan**

### **Proposal 3**

I am a graduate of Wheatley High School / I did not get a chance to graduate from Brack My Dad is a 1947 graduate from Brack

We have a lot of questions. How were these numbers determined?

Has there been consideration of the inner city development / growth?

Keeping Brack is a decision that seems logical

# Speaker 31: Shelley Potter – Transfer Analysis Balance Proposal

Transfer Analysis Balance – more students transferring into a school.

Parents are sending more kids to Brack

Brack has the highest transfer analysis balance

Why is the district closing schools that have high transfer analysis balance?

Brack has the highest positive transfer balance at 26.8

You cannot just pickup programs and transfer them to other campuses

There is more to a specific school...its customs

Its traditions don't just readily transfer

We can't just pick them up here and drop them off over there

I know that there are multiple factors; but be very careful to mess with schools

## Speaker 32: Jackie Salame

## **Proposal 3**

1996 graduate of Brack

Photography student

Wheatley is not in a good location for a magnet schools

Maybe Sam Houston would be a magnet school

No to proposal 2

#### **Speaker 33: Oscar Vicks**

#### **Proposal**

If Sam Houston is not on the list then I am not for any of the proposals

We are tax payers and how do you think that I feel when you said that you are for proposal 3

We are not going to have a high school on the East-Side

If a kid misses a bus in the morning, the kid will need to catch 2-3 buses to get to school

Let's get some help / We can do a better job

How are we going to get money to build a school?

I am a Viet Nam Veteran and retired from the Post Office

When I pledge allegiance to the flag where does this leave the East Side

If you're going to take everything from us at least leave us the high school

What do you think it's going to do to our kids when they are going to be bused all over the place?

We're going to close a school and build another one?

# Speaker 34: Michelle Reyes – League of Public School Justice

## **Proposal**

#1 Why does the YWLA get something special and we have to be stuck with 200 students We're not taking it

#2 Has anybody heard? Our Superintendent sits in the Committee of San Antonio...

A member there said...close Brack and sell it to developers

I have no reason to believe that the Supt. is doing anything wrong – build SH up with the kids from the Travis ECHS and YWLA

Build Sam Houston up and get them to be Exemplary and then I will say that you rock

# Speaker 35: Patti Garcia from Thomas Jefferson Proposal 3

I come here a little confused but I am not as confused as I seem to be

I don't get it... I got 2 letters in the mail and they say ... no child left behind

Let's close Fox Tech, no let's close Burbank, no let's close Brack, no let's close Sam Houston

Read letter from the district - Jefferson is under AYP -

Jefferson students can transfer to Brack and Burbank

Get out of the business of charter schools and get in the business of having school meet AYP Jefferson has had two Principals in the past two years

# Speaker 36 (#20): Gerardo Rodriguez

# **Proposal**

I did not realize that Travis is only built for children that are going to College

So if you're smarter, keep Sam Houston open / close Travis and keep Sam Houston

Cut Travis and send the students to Sam Houston to build that school

Don't just keep the one school for the elite kids

# Dr. Durón Clarifies points about YWLA and Travis Early College HS

Received grant for Travis ECHS / it needs to be close to a community college, which it is and if your child chooses to go there, they sacrifice electives, so it's cheaper

The district received a \$1 million grant to start YWLA

Here's my point: If we don't do something, the charter schools will get that money,

We need to be creative and get that money.