

**SAISD Restructuring Meeting
Fox Tech High School
September 9, 2009**

6:00 Welcome by Anita Chavera, Principal of Fox Tech High School

Mr. James Howard - Opening Statement

Our purpose for restructuring our district is to provide an education that prepares our students for success. The committee worked hard. The three proposals reflect the amount of time they took. 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. Tom Lopez – Overview

Thank you for being here this evening. I want to express my gratitude to the community and all of you who represent this community. It's been an honor to work with the people who have been involved in this process. There are three proposals for the restructuring of our district that we will be looking at this evening. This is a long-term plan; one that expands over 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. This evening is the opportunity for you to provide to us what you like and what you don't like regarding these proposals. Based on the input we receive, the Board will, by late September or early October, have a plan that they can present. We would like to hear your input about what you like or don't like about these proposals.

Dr. Durón

I want to thank you for being here this evening. Parents, grandparents, guardians, we are thankful of you and your time. Thank you for being involved. It shows that you support your school.

If my plans were to be here 4 years I would not be doing this.

If I had plans to be here 2 years I would say, "Let's all go home to see what's on TV."

It is my responsibility as a leader and as the Superintendent to make sure that our district is going to be strong 10 years down the road.

We are here for a very important reason, but the most important thing that I want to communicate to you is WHY we are restructuring.

Why restructure?

1. We want our community to strengthen / Schools must succeed
2. We want quality education for our students and we must be efficient with your tax dollars
3. We want to improve the school district and in order to do this we have to change
4. Our students deserve the best facilities

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

Our purpose is to improve lives through a quality education

Our mission to that end is that all students graduate

The drop out rate is less now than in previous years

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
I sincerely appreciate you being here. I appreciate your time and commitment this evening.

Rachel Ponce - Overview of the Phases

Phase 1 - Visioning

Phase 2 - Facilities Implications

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

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

A timeline will be developed – a plan over a 10 year period

Committee believes that anyone of these proposals will provide equity for our SAISD students

Mr. Curtis Bowers – Gap Analysis

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

Cora Johns - Overview of Details of Plan

Boundaries - Spoke about our current structure

Presented which schools have our largest and 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

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

7:00 p.m. - 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

County Commissioner Tommy Atkinson

Thank you very much SAISD and Committee. I have no decision to make. I wanted to come by to tell you about resources, about a 90 million dollar infusion to build the Robert B. Green hospital (?) Robert Green was a County Judge in 1900 and we want to name a hospital after him. This hospital will provide a platform for Medical students. I have resources to bring to you apart from what you are deciding here. We want to partner with SAISD we want to revitalize the downtown area. A renaissance village in the Fort Sam Area will invigorate our area. We should seize the moment. I look forward to working with you. I thought I would be remiss not to say that the County of Bexar understands the problems you are facing. We will revitalize the city with a Health Career High School. The county is here to partner up with SAISD. I have lived in SAISD all my life. Your commissioner will work with you to make a Health Careers High School at Fox Tech.

Speaker 1: Mary Wilton

Proposal: 3

I am against you closing Tafolla and Sam Houston. I retired after 24 years of teaching ESL and live in SAISD district. When I left SAISD we were an acceptable school district. Sir, on your watch we have become AYP unacceptable. I'm the only one in my family that has a college degree. I can save you money; let's start with Dr. Durón's Executive Staff.

I am Mexican American. I am proud to be brown. Not everybody has to go to college

We can go get ourselves another Superintendent. Why do we need a Deputy Superintendent.

We can do our own thing. Get away from me lady (she was speaking to Roz and there was cheering and clapping from the audience) Has she been working here 24 years? (Speaking about Roz)

'No se dejen raza' (she spoke in Spanish) Yes we are educated. It was Hillary, Ms. Obama, Sotomayor and now it comes to us. Dr. Durón, you are not our vision any more. I have given \$50,000 to this district.

Speaker 2: Nathan Basse, Fox Tech teacher

Proposal 1

I hope to be a future SAISD parent. Don't leave us hanging anymore. It's getting hard for us It's been a tough 2 years. As a parent I've been thinking about the different proposals. I don't see how there's equity with Proposal 3. Jefferson stands special. Why is Jefferson special?

I see Proposal 1 as a good proposal. Just be more flexible. Give us variety then we'd have something to think about. If you're thinking of visions, small, medium and large schools, think about this. There are values in schools of all sizes

Speaker 3: James Aden

Proposal 3

Representing Hawthorne Academy. The first school to be recognized as a charter. Just this year we received Exemplary rating, it's the only MS to receive Exemplary. Since 1998 this school has received nation wide recognition. It has partnered with several businesses

This puts me in support of Proposal 3. TAKS scores for math at Hawthorne has outperformed all schools; Outperformed Beacon Hill; outperformed Bonham; And it has also outperformed Alamo Heights. I moved here from CA just a year ago. I found this school and really love it.

Speaker 5: Odelia Cantu

Proposal

I am not in favor of any of the plans because they are closing my school in the East Side.

You are closing Sam Houston. Why? We just spent one million dollars on it. If we had not had so many academies we would have more kids at Davis. The top floor at Davis is empty. I don't need a new high school. I've got news for Dr. Duron. He's not doing his job. He needs to get off the CEO Circuit. I don't want you here another year.

Speaker 6: Alejandrina Garcia

Proposal

I taught for 31 years in our district. I am concerned about our Special Education children. We must comply with Federal law Mr. Howard and Mr. Lopez. Special Education is in shambles. Are we ready for this? Don't fail these children. Are the schools ready for these kids? Transportation is not ready. The district failed my daughter. She could not continue her job training at the Lighthouse. You have all these students with disabilities, please remember them. Dr. Duron talks about music and art. Did you know that music is a related service in Sp. Ed.? But yet we don't have music in Sp. Ed. in our classes

Speaker 7: Robert Carter "Chef Peter," Fox Tech teacher

Proposal

I want to thank you for future vision. It's a hard road. I'm here representing Fox Tech and it's community. I am a 4th year teacher at Fox Tech. I would like to defend FT and the culinary class at FT. We must change our culture to a servant leadership style. The world is flat and we are being challenged. I have the capacity to have a third class.

Speaker 8: Lupe Barba, parent

Proposal

I have kids at Fox Tech. My first statement to the committee is that I want to go back to the beginning. The parents of Fox Tech children did not have a fair chance to say what we wanted here at FT. The committee was chaired by John Montelongo. He did not inform parents about this committee. Therefore we don't have a fair chance to say what we want for our children here at Fox Tech. I am confused why we can't continue as traditional schools with both programs. We have wonderful Magnet teachers. Let's focus on that program and bring it to another level. Don't forget about that Magnet program. We welcome the medical program but the only problem I have with those proposals is; what if you don't want to be in medicine or law? It's not fair that others are not welcomed. Their parents are tax payers too. Please do not throw those children away. They don't want to be doctors and lawyers. You want to change all high schools. Where do our children go to? The other side of town? What about all the gang violence? If you think we have problems now you don't know what you've got coming. Parents, do not let this happen. No Fox Tech traditional...No bond in May!

Speaker 9: Nick Rodriguez

Proposal

I've seen a lot of changes over the years. I'm a proud parent of a Fox Tech graduate and I'd like to know what has happened to the vocational programs that were here before. I walked in the back of the school and the shops are gone! Bring back vocational education. When you took the vocational programs away here in SAISD Northside began to offer these programs. Now they have a lot of kids over there in vocational programs. Bring these programs back and we'll get a lot of our students back. I've heard that San Antonio Spurs are interested in buying this property; and that is the truth. Where are you getting money to build another HS? Shipping our kids to other parts of town is not a good thing. I know change is inevitable. We voted you in and we can vote you out.

Speaker 10: Senior Class Officer Jennifer DeLuna

Proposal

We need better teachers and better administration. Right now at Fox Tech we don't have a lot of electives. Bring back the vocational program. Lanier has them why don't we? Don't you want us to be successful Dr. Durón?

Speaker 11: Class Officer Cassandra Rodriguez

Proposal

Please stop making assumptions about us Dr. Durón. Why don't you think about the passions that we already have? Encourage us to follow our dreams. We do not support any of the proposals. We at Fox Tech have so much passion.

Speaker 12: Lloyd Foster

I am a scientist and a teacher. Dr. Durón, you said in your opening remarks, that you look to us to make future decisions; that you need our thoughts and suggestions. So I know tonight is FT night. I have Sam Houston HS in mind. I realize that it seems that these schools need to be closed. Leave consideration to leave these schools open. I know that SH has low numbers. I hope that this is not the reason for closing this school. I think that we as individuals in the east part of San Antonio are about Sam Houston HS. This is the only school in the East Side that's a close proximity school to our children. Highlands HS might be a school that you think our kids could go to but they have 2000 students. I would like for you to seriously consider leaving Sam Houston and Fox Tech open. I would like to talk to this committee if the books aren't completely closed.

Speaker 13: Catherine Espinoza, Davis MS student

Proposal

What I understand that you're going to close Davis. I am representing Davis and every kid in SAISD. We don't want to be over crowded. We like our areas now and how much room we have now. We don't want 20 or 40 kids per class. I say my MS is very organized. I hope my siblings can go through what I'm going through. You're talking about thousands. I want to see a few hundreds.

Speaker 14: Naylor Gray, parent

Proposal 3

I'm speaking on behalf of Hawthorne. It has gone to national recognition. I know that times are tough but we need this PK-8 school. During the recession when parents are considering not sending their children to private schools, PK-8 is one way to bring these parents back. I have to support Proposal 3 because of the PK-8 program.

Speaker 15: Gloria Garza

Proposal

I am from the class of 1966 from Fox Tech HS. 650 to 1000 students would graduate back in those days. Then Vietnam came and we lost many young men. San Antonio had the most casualties during the war. Right now I feel like we're going back in time. We were self sustained. We learned a trade. When they took that out of Tech it kinda folded and lots of kids started dropping out. We need to bring this vocational program back. Like Dr. Durón pointed out. He said that Tech has been neglected. At Windsor Park right now, they have a program that's the talk of the nation. But we were first. We used to go to nationals for contests. We could be a self sustaining city if we could teach kids skills. We need to get a current plan. How are they going to control our kids? We can't control them now. Burbank is territorial. It's about gang fights. It's territorial you have to look at the whole picture. Proposal 3 needs fixing. Are we still going to pay property taxes for the schools that are going to close? These are concerns that you haven't addressed yet.

Speaker 16: Diane Chase

Proposal 3

Hawthorne Academy is a shining example of what a school should look like. They have an Exemplary rating. I am from out of district. Hawthorne has a Trinity University partnership. It has the lowest number of drop outs. It has the lowest number of absentees. They have an outstanding reputation. Ms. Pollock, the VP and teachers have received many awards. This is why Hawthorne has a waiting list. Let's live up to new motto..."Making History". Keep Hawthorne open. Please support Proposal 3.

Speaker 15: Rolando (?) Orta, Brack '73

Proposal

Each school represents a part of San Antonio. I was selected by Mr. Montelongo to be a part of their committee to recommend some changes. From the beginning he told us that the only way Fox Tech could stay open was if it would be a Magnet School. But, that if we met AYP we would stay a traditional school and now it seems that has changed. FT right now has 1,250 people if they are adding 400 students because of the Magnet program. I'm not for any of the proposals not for 1, 2, or 3. If we make it a Magnet HS, that means you'll be accepting only 80% and sending 20% to other schools. The problem is that we are only accepting 80%. Are we only accepting AB students? What happens to the C students? Last week you mentioned that a kid from FT was at West Point. This person is from the MacArthur area. We need kids from our area coming to this school. Two people represented Hawthorn. It's an excellent school. But the problem with Hawthorne is that if you don't live within Hawthorne area you will not get accepted. That's the same thing that's going to happen here. In our neighborhood the kids that live here are not going to get accepted...Then after 20% not being accepted it will become 50%. Where are we going to send them? In 1974-75 they closed down Wheatley and started sending those students to Brack and you had riots everyday. If you change kids to different schools that's what kind of problems you are going to have. I want to know if we are still in the football game or is it too late for us?

Speaker 17: Edward Giles

Proposal

I've been blessed with writing. I want to share a poem with you. It's called *Arrogant Ignorance*.

He read his poem. A few phrases from the poem...

While making shallow promises which they will rarely keep

One day they will have to answer to their vanity

....by hook or crook

I want to tell you that I wrote it really for our government

I kinda question why we are making decisions on our kid's future without substantial input

(Clock indicated that his time was up and then he said, I am now commenting as ED JIVES

Hitler also made history. I want to be able to tell them about decisions that we made that did not have anything to do with numbers. As a community we've gone to different schools. I don't know if you've visited all these schools. But right now you have the community who is willing to get involved. I have not received a phone call yet. I want my poster back after each of you have looked at what I have looked at. So I want my poster back.

(Clock indicated that his time was up and then he said I am Bi-Polar so now I'm the 3rd person.)

As far as safety of our students; what about the schools that are empty. What about the teachers; where are they. I ask as far as use of the property; that we would be consolidating offices. Please take time to have good information because once that decision is made it's going to be hard to get anything changed.

Speaker 18: Ruben Espronceda

Proposal

I am the publisher of the San Antonio Post. I want to speak to the audience first and then to the committee. What do you think if from 1500 schools your HS was ranked 496 would you like to have a high school like that? What about a HS that has the lowest drop out rate? What about a HS that has met AYP in the past 8 years. Well, guess what folks. We have that HS here but in Plan 1 and 2 they shut it down. And Brack too, let's be proud of it...that committee shut those schools down...you know why? (Waited momentarily for an answer) They won't answer us.

Mr. Durón this was emailed to me. AYP was not met by the following schools. Edison HS, Jefferson HS., Lanier, Navarro, Wheatley MS, didn't make it. Where are we going with this Mr. Duron. We're exhausted. You're not listening to us. You have failed us the last 3 years. We've gone back and now you're going to eliminate the top schools? Our district needs new leadership and sir, your not it. Post is asking for you resignation. It'll be in the Post Newspaper. We're asking for your resignation. We need to pull from our community. Good leadership. This committee should look at Plan 3 because it is workable, it really is. As of tomorrow the community will be asking you to resign.

Speaker 19: Rina Moreno

Proposal

I want to say that we transferred our child to Hawthorne Academy. Hawthorne Academy is an exemplary model for what SAISD needs throughout the district. Every school should be replicated using a model like Hawthorne Academy. It has the lowest discipline referral, lowest DAEP of all; last year we graduated our first Hawthorne class. 98.5% of our class graduated. Only 1 child dropped out; only 1 child turned out pregnant and graduated anyway, they were awarded over? money in college scholarships, they were among the highest TAKS scores of all schools; I want to make a correction to what was said here earlier by another parent. Hawthorne Academy is a no boundary Academy. I want to add that it's a very difficult thing to say good-bye to our schools. Let's not get rid of what is working

Speaker 20: Oscar Vicks, Sam Houston

Proposal

It's obvious I kinda agree with Chase? It all boils down to that our kids get an education. We need to put everything aside. It's obvious I don't want any Proposal but I can live with number 3 if Sam Houston is left open. I want to thank every one of you here. I know all of you here heard about Jerry Dillard just signing up...#1 in college and he graduated from Sam Houston. I am hoping that we start using our resources. Who were you listening to when you agreed to an all-girl school? These young people will tell you what they want. Who did you talk to about taking vocational classes out of the schools? At some point and time everybody should have equal distance to get to schools. The county, the city, the corporations, we had 1000 people at Sam Houston saying they want to help. Let's try to give the people what the people want.

Speaker 21: Mr. Tommy Gregory

I am a 1974 graduate of Fox Tech HS. I also live in the community where Sam Houston sits. Without any condemnation to any of you, as I reviewed these proposals it's irresponsible but some of these changes are just too radical. The decision could already be made and all of us are just wasting our time. If it has, that's wrong. I have seen this district at its best and now at its worst. I believe that we should not force our kids to go to college. We should help them perfect what they want to do. If we make this a Medical school we will be denying some kids. At the same time I have a great love for this school because my daughter graduated from here. She's now at A& M University. She's up there as an Academic Advisor and she graduated from here in 2004. Keep this school traditional. This school is too great to lower it to what you want to lower it to. This is not the way to go. SH on the other hand should stay open. This proposal about building another school, leave SH open, make it a better school, but if you can't do the job, step down. Stop this out of control proposals. This is all we're asking. If California can recall a governor, I'm sure the

city of San Antonio can recall the whole School Board. If you vote for these Proposals, SAISD constituents will over throw our own School Board.

Speaker 22: John Alcoces, PTA Council

In 1975 we were the first school to play at the Alamodome. We proved that our school can play a good game and put out good students. I was told that for Pershing to stay open I needed a number. Pershing has a park at the school. You sell Pershing, we loose that park in our school. Take another look at Pershing. 10,000 people will be coming to the Pershing area. I'm proud that people from Hawthorne were here to talk. Let's be honest with ourselves we're going to see school closures no matter what. We beg that Pershing be left open. Will the public be able to attend the meetings when the decisions will be made? Howard, you did not hire Dr.Duron to come do your dirty work? This better work. Remember that we should not loose Fox Tech. We can do baccaulaureate and we can do football.

**Speaker 23: Michelle Reyes, League for Public School Justice
Proposal 3**

I would vote for Proposal 3 with all schools to stay open and at least 1 more ES built. There's a lot that you don't know but I only have 3 min. Committee was told to keep hands off FT. The district had their own plans for FT. I've heard a lot about Hawthorne but why is it closing? What about Burbank? It's a great program but set to close. Nothing inside the school buildings were looked at. They are just moving programs around. Trustees, all of them voted against proposal 1 (?) A school district is in the business of educating our children so you would think that would be your last resort, that is, to close schools. Shouldn't phase 4 have been Phase 1? This is not over regardless of what happens with our proposals. This Saturday there is a meeting at Travis from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We're standing watch over our schools and our children.

Speaker 24: Arthur J. Hollis

For the young lady that just spoke look at your numbers. Talk to the School Board. We're talking about closing schools but we're talking about money. How much is it going to cost to transport all these children? What about interactions between schools when they come together. I lived in Dallas. There was so much fighting and shooting that police had to walk the schools. About these meetings that you are having; are they designed for what you're going to do and not take into consideration what we are saying? Is this about education or about money? All the schools belong to the tax payers. They pay for the facilities. It's up to the tax payers what is done with the properties but yet you are making the decisions? I close with...

The clock timer went off and Mr. Arthur shouted 'Shut that off'

If you want to know what kind of package, what is the greatest content in the package, if you look at the list of things that the School Board is talking about, they are going to sell the property and then they are going to use it for administration needs. They are more interested in money than your kids. I say stand up and take them out. Take them all out. Let's start anew because they sure as hell are not listening to you.

Speaker 25: Lorraine (?) Valadez, Fox Tech parent

I work for an insurance company. I understand what you are saying about not enough money. My kids are asking what are we going to do mom? Changes are going to happen. We have to make difficult changes in our homes as well as here at school. You can have the best students, but if you put them somewhere else they are not going to do well. You are asking the whole district to change. I understand about finances. I have to give kids rides to and from schools. Why impact so many kids at one time? Let's get more kids in Hawthorne if they are the best. If we can prepare all the kids like Hawthorne then they will get into High School because all these kids will be prepared. We won't have to worry about whether or not they are going to graduate.

Speaker 26: Anna Alicia Romero, League for Public School Justice

I understand the district's desire for more graduates. I commend the district for the committee but it should have been more open, more chances given to other parents. I was befuddled by facts like FT being off the table. I was told leave it alone, it's off the table, it's going to be an academy. I did not understand why 4 Board members said leave Sam Houston open and it was rejected. We want to shut schools down and hoard kids to other places. They say we need more academies to bring more money. Why shut down Mann for YWLA? Nobody is asking for more segregated environments. No one here is asking for more girl schools. The cart is being placed before the horse. So, money deficiencies drop academic excellence? More people should be listening to this. There are very few people here that speak Spanish and they did not get the information. Kids can wake up at 6:30 in the morning to be bused. The very programs that kids like, like athletics; if your child needs tutoring, there's no bus for them. This is unfair. It's inefficient for us. It may be efficient for you but not for us. Yes we are emotional; yes we get emotional when we see the discrepancies you're talking about, like turning the schools around. Mr. Duron, I hate to tell you this, but when you close schools you're going to see more kids not going to school. It needs to be tweaked. Keep Sam Houston open.

Speaker 27: Joy McGhee

I'm a proud graduate of Sam Houston HS and PTA President of Sam Houston. My daughter comes to Fox Tech. When you think of elected officials they are voted by the people for the people. I believe that we are more than numbers. I'm hearing officials moaning and groaning when you parents are talking. I'm here because I don't believe in giving up. I don't believe that we need to set low standards. All of our schools and children are worth saving. Go back and try again. Find the right solution; the one that meets the needs of our inner city children. I don't give up on our district. I believe our district can be Exemplary. I see and I'm proud of Hawthorne. Let's do that for all our children throughout our schools. Have Magnets and traditional schools.

Speaker 28: Dr. Carlos Orosco, Fox Tech grad

I have lived in SAISD all my life. I grew up a couple of blocks from here. I have been a physician here for 30 years. About 3 years ago a few of us met because we were concerned that we saw fewer kids in the medical schools. We took a few kids and gave them opportunities. We thought about a Health Career HS opportunity here because of all the hospitals around Fox Tech. We had tried to get this health career high school off the ground. 23 Hispanics are in medical school but they are not even from here, they are from other countries. Here we could foster health students. I'm for the "C" students and I'm for vocational schools also. We're trying to do something for the school in this area.

Speaker 29: Esther Batista. Five Points NA President and Council of PTAs

This is a hard decision to be put into. I graduated from here in 1973. How did we get in this predicament? I speak for our community of Austin Academy, Tafolla and Lanier. FT is known like another Alamo in this town. Where are the kids going to be when they close this down? I also am SAISD Parliamentarian of our district PTA. When you all get together, think about the dangers that are out there. You've heard for 8 consecutive meetings what we want. I hope you work things out for the future. Dr. Duron I believe in you and I'm sure that a lot of people do too. We are concerned about where our children are going to be.

Speaker 30: Delgadina Cervantes

Proposal 3

I was supposed to go to SH but I didn't fit. So I went to Edison because I'm white and did not fit in at SH. If a child wants it (I'm 23 years old) they will do whatever it takes to get their education. I make ___ amount of money. How many 23 year olds do you know that are making this much money? What are you doing to help your children with their education? Are you doing homework with them? Are you reading to them every night? It doesn't matter what school the children go to. It's about how much they want it. Are you

willing to have your taxes raised 3 or 4 times just to kept this school open. I don't need to have my taxes raised.

Speaker 31: Patti Garcia – League for Public Schools

Proposal 3

I support Proposal 3 but with all schools left open

The clock – most people talked slowly so that they could be understood. I have been to the majority of the meetings and they have gone over 3 minutes. They have spoken slowly because they wanted to be heard and understood. I want to speak about AYP. This is very important. We have a big problem in this district. We need to concentrate in education. I visit campuses and see a lot of disrespect between teacher and teacher, between teacher and student, and between administration and teacher. This district talks about customer service but then I go visit a school and the front staff office says to me, HAVE YOU BEEN HELPED YET?

Customer service? These people's tone of voice has to change. Why did we not listen to President Obama? Oxy moron not to listen to our President.

Speaker 32: Tom Gaffney

(Mr. Gaffney spoke in Spanish at the beginning of his speech)

Ladies and gentleman we have a problem. If people in America are stealing millions and millions of dollars then they should be able to give us millions and millions of dollars.

Establish a committee to go to Washington D.C. We're spreading money around the world but we're not getting that money and it's our tax money. Money should never be the problem. I was 48 years in this district. We need to get some of those Brack folks to the East Side. Howard, you need to work with the city infrastructure. Do not put jail house near our kids. I'm sure that someone could work with a facility like this. We don't need to close them, just polish them. You don't need art to survive. Keep our schools open. Let's send them up to Washington D.C. to get some of that stimulus money.

Speaker 33: Ruben Hernandez

I was here with my family but it got too late and I sent them home. I was told that FT was on the chopping block. I am a college graduate. At 22 years I held my 10 lb baby said that this baby will be linebacker like me (at FT?) People ask me why I don't move out of this area. They tell me that I've made it. Move out of the inner city. I'm successful now and have moved my way up the corporate ladder. I have stayed here because I believe in my community. Even if I came from here, I got into a university and I made a success out of myself. I do believe that kids can attend inner city schools and still be successful. If you all decide to close FT you're going to get parents like me to ponder whether we should stay here or not. Please don't do that. This is not the best thing for this community.