

DURÓN'S DIGEST

UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT J. DURÓN





Monday, September 14, 2009

Board to Review Modified Restructuring Plan, Following Community Comments

On Saturday, a community-based committee wrapped up its efforts to outline a proposal for restructuring the San Antonio Independent School District. As you may recall, this community-based committee has been working for more than a year to develop a plan that would allow the school district to achieve optimal enrollment levels (and therefore, better resourcing) at all the schools in the District.

In recent weeks, eight public meetings were held at locations throughout the District—seeking comments from parents and other citizens about the three draft proposals initially developed by the community-based committee. Proposal 3 emerged as the clear favorite during those meetings.

Saturday's session provided an opportunity for the committee to review public comments and modify Proposal 3 accordingly. Among the changes are to retain seven traditional high schools (rather than six as originally outlined in the proposal), by keeping Sam Houston High School open, either as a 9th-12th grade campus or as a combined secondary school, housing grades 7-12.

Next Steps

Over the next two or three weeks, SAISD administrators will evaluate the workability of the committee's suggested modifications to Proposal 3, to determine if any additional changes are required.

It's important to acknowledge the committee's hard work in getting us to this point: The members took on a very difficult task, and saw it through in a spirit of open dialogue. Any discussion that involves school closures will inevitably stir up strong feelings. But, ultimately, it produces stronger recommendations when community members are confident that their voices have been heard. That's a key benefit of the community-based process used to prepare a restructuring plan for the Board of Trustees to consider.

A final proposal is expected to go to the Board for approval in late September or early October. Once the restructuring plan has been approved, a timeline will be developed to phase in the changes over a period of about 10 years.

We certainly appreciate all you do to support our schools and to create a brighter future for this community.

Best regards,

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