



DURÓN'S DIGEST

UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT J. DURÓN

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Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Progressing toward a long-range plan

I want to keep you apprised of the progress we are making toward having a final restructuring plan to strengthen our schools. The next step in this process is a meeting with our Board of Trustees on October 26. This is our opportunity for administration to present our recommended proposal, and get the Board's authorization for us to move forward to further develop the details on how and when this plan could be implemented, and the long-term vision of enhanced educational offerings to prepare our students for college and careers.

The work of Phase III is complete, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the community-based committee. They spent many months developing proposals for a long-range plan, and attended eight public meetings to hear the views of the broader community. Following these meetings, the committee reconvened to finalize their recommendations – making adjustments to “Plan 3”, which was the option the great majority of public-meeting attendees supported. Their adjustments included keeping open Sam Houston High School.

I applaud this committee for their efforts – and their leadership. It takes a lot of courage to make tough decisions and take the criticism, but they knew the importance of their work and it's future impact on the children of this community. They stayed true to their goal and came through with a set of recommendations for the next 10 years.

Administration has reviewed the recommendations and made some additional limited modifications. On October 26 we will recommend that the Board authorize our moving forward with Phase IV of the plan – which involves our doing further detailed analysis on: the standard and special programs to be offered at each campus; facility recommendations including specific additions and renovations; transportation considerations; cost estimates for additions, renovations and land acquisition; and the proposed sequence of project implementation.

We expect to update the Board in January on the progress of Phase IV, and complete the work in the Spring semester. It is at the conclusion of Phase IV that we will ask the Board for their approval of a final restructuring plan. It is possible that the detailed analysis will have resulted in our needing to make adjustments to the proposal, and we will bring the rationale for any new recommendations or possible alternatives for the Board's consideration at that meeting.

The next step would be to look at funding, should the community support the implementation of the plan. This would be our opportunity to not only adapt the District to the greatly changed enrollment and population patterns and generate significant savings – but to significantly invest in programs and technology and provide the teaching and learning environment that all of our students need and deserve. It's been a long, and at times difficult, process but knowing the end goal makes it well worth the journey.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,