

June 28, 2010

Teach For America bringing their enthusiasm to SAISD

This fall District students will have even more opportunities for quality learning experiences.

Through a partnership between SAISD and the acclaimed Teach For America organization, the first corps of approximately 100 of the nation's top college graduates are bringing their expertise and enthusiasm into the District's classrooms.

"We all know the challenges that many of our students face, and this is one more support system in place to help up provide the best opportunities for our students," said Superintendent Robert J. Durón at the time the partnership was announced in December.

Recruits had the opportunity to introduce themselves to principals, find out about the resources that will be available to them, complete some of their necessary paperwork, and familiarize themselves with some Alamo City landmarks during a June 11 "Greet and Meet Job Fair/Welcome to SAISD" event under the theme "Teach for America – Passport to Teaching."

Currently, SAISD's corps is among about 800 nationwide attending TFA's Houston Institute, a five-week training program that includes

actual classroom experience. Under the tutelage of Houston ISD's top educators, trainees are teaching students enrolled in that district's summer school programs.

Upon completion of the training, they will return to San Antonio to fulfill their two-year



TFA founder and CEO Wendy Kopp celebrates the SAISD partnership with upcoming Bonham Academy 5th-grade teacher David Nungaray (left) and Rocky Ventura who returns to Harris Academy where he was a teacher assistant last school year.

TEACHFORAMERICA

commitment with SAISD at targeted schools.

About 40 are being assigned to 20 elementaries, while more than 50 are going to 12 middle schools, eight high schools, and other select campuses where principals have requested TFA teachers.

Through 2012, more will be added each year for an ultimate total of approximately 300.

With TFA's nearly 20-year track record of proven success, SAISD leaders believe this partnership will contribute to ongoing efforts to increase graduation rates and college readiness.

An Urban Institute study found that TFA teachers have a positive effect on student achievement - particularly at the high school level - relative to other educators, including teachers who are experienced, traditionally prepared and those fully certified in their field.

With the addition of SAISD, San Antonio becomes the fourth TFA partner in Texas, following Dallas, Houston and the Rio Grande Valley.

In all, the organization serves 35 regions nationwide.

Community committee working toward school improvements

Trustees are expected to decide in August whether to call for a Nov. 2 bond election to benefit District schools.

Helping to explore this idea is a 35-member community-based committee which has been meeting since late May to discuss District needs and help determine the details and priorities for a possible bond package.

Parent and State Rep. Mike Villarreal and parent Celina Peña are co-chairs of the committee whose members were appointed by Trustees - five each from every School Board district - and made up of residents, parents, alumni, past committee members and employees.

The committee has reviewed the District's financial information, tax impact scenarios, and the long-range strategic plan, and also have toured facilities to help guide their recommendations.

The co-chairs presented an update on the committee's work at the June 21 School Board meeting, and reported that members recommend a \$502 million bond referendum for November. But first, there are still items to be considered including tax impact and bond package details. The committee will provide final recommendations to the School Board in late July.

The committee's work follows approval by the School Board last April to move forward with the

first phase of implementation of the long-range restructuring plan, which also was developed by a community-based committee.

Under Phase I recommendations, all schools would receive safety and security and technology improvements, several schools would be significantly renovated into 21st century instruction environments, and high schools and middle schools would receive career technology program enhancements.

For more information on the committee's work, go to the Community section on the front page of www.saisd.net.



Among those speaking at the June 23 community committee meeting were members Gloria Parra (left photo), and John Willkins, who is shown addressing co-chair Celina Peña. The 35-member committee has met regularly since late May, and is expected to make final recommendation to Trustees in late July.

Congratulations to SAISD's outstanding graduates for the class of 2010!

Well-prepared to take on tomorrow's challenges are this year's District graduates.

For most of the approximate 2,700-member class of 2010, higher education and/or

military academies will be their next stop.

In all, these outstanding young adults have earned more than \$36 million in scholarships.

Among the colleges and universities they

will attend include those selected by each school's valedictorian and salutatorian.

Brackenridge

Elizabeth Luna, valedictorian
Baylor University

Amanda Perez, salutatorian
Texas A&M University

Burbank

Alycia Gutierrez, valedictorian
Baylor University

John Dale Grover, salutatorian
Bowdoin College

Edison

Carlos Gonzalez, valedictorian
Texas A&M University

Lucero Alvarez, salutatorian
St. Mary's University

Fox Tech

Corina Garcia, valedictorian
University of Texas at San Antonio

Gregory Mackey, salutatorian
University of Texas at Austin

Highlands

Rudy Cuellar, valedictorian
Brown University

Vanessa Moreno, salutatorian
Texas A&M University

Sam Houston

Jacob Markowski, valedictorian
University of Texas at Austin

Elizabeth Tatum, salutatorian
University of Texas at San Antonio

Jefferson

John Martinez, valedictorian
Trinity University

Christopher Ramirez, salutatorian
University of Texas at Austin

Lanier

Michelle Rangel, valedictorian
Trinity University

Natalie Ibarra, salutatorian
University of Texas at Austin

Navarro Academy

Sandra Arias, valedictorian
Our Lady of the Lake University

Elisama Leal, salutatorian
University of Texas at San Antonio

New District appointments and assignments announced

Cora Johns, executive assistant to the superintendent and special projects

Formerly: Area III executive director

John Gomez, area executive director for campus operations

Formerly: Margil ES principal

Mary E. Macias, area executive director for campus operations

Formerly: Pershing ES principal

Dr. Carol A. Saxenian, area executive director for campus operations

Formerly: Tyler HS principal, Tyler ISD

Jacqueline Faye Gonzalez, PEIMS and Data Services Technology director

Formerly: data quality analyst

Dorene Benavidez, Woodlawn ES principal

Formerly: Hubbard Heights ES principal, Fort Worth ISD

Derrick Cade, Douglass Academy principal

Formerly: Sam Houston HS academic dean

Carlos Galvan, Sarah King ES principal

Formerly: Woodlawn ES principal

Charlotte Gregory, Miller ES principal

Formerly: Davis MS principal

Rickey Harrell, Davis MS principal

Formerly: Academy of Careers & Technologies Charter HS principal

Michael Jordan, Irving Academy principal

Formerly: Longfellow MS asst. principal

Aronette McCollum-Bacon, Gates ES principal

Formerly: M.L. King Academy asst. principal

Elida Navarro, Green ES principal

Formerly: Lanier HS academic dean

Patricia Ortiz, J.T. Brackenridge ES principal

Formerly: Rhodes MS asst. principal

Karen Rose, Baskin Academy principal

Formerly: Green ES principal

Noemi Saldivar, Whittier Academy principal

Formerly: J.T. Brackenridge ES principal

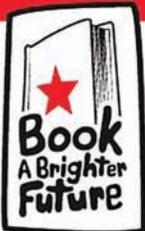
Francisca Whitaker, Huppertz ES principal

Formerly: Sarah King ES principal



Happy Fourth of July!

All SAISD schools and most offices will be closed July 5-9 in celebration of America's 234th birthday. Have a safe and happy Independence Day holiday!



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San Antonio ISD



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From June 30-July 31, 2010, simply stop by your local Macy's and give \$3 and get \$10 off* one purchase of \$50 or more. Macy's will donate 100% of every \$3 to RIF. This is a great opportunity to support the children served by

San Antonio ISD.

Visit RIF.org/brighterfuture for more information. Spread the word today!

*Exclusions and restrictions apply. See store or Macy's.com/rif for details.

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San Antonio Independent School District
141 Lavaca St.
San Antonio, TX 78210
phone: 554-2250
fax: 299-5790
www.saisd.net

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Leslie Price, Executive Director
René Lynn, Newsletter Coordinator
John Lawler, Photographer
Gustavo López, Design and Layout

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