

September 24, 2010

Federal, state grants to boost SAISD schools and communities

Fox Tech and Sam Houston high schools are recipients of a total of nearly \$9 million in funding to help improve their campuses, while five District schools will be among the beneficiaries of a grant the city received to revitalize San Antonio's East Side.

TTIPS grant

Through the Texas Title 1 Priority Schools Grants, Fox Tech and Sam Houston will "transform" their schools using a transformational model which is one of the four federal intervention model choices.

Under the transformation model, improvements call for increases in teacher and leadership effectiveness, academic performance, school climate, data driven instruction, and parent involvement.

Fox Tech's \$4.32 million will go toward its transformation begun this year from a traditional high school into an exclusively-specialized campus.

This school year the Fox Tech Health Professions Magnet program joined the established Law Professions Magnet.

Sam Houston will use its \$4.66 million to create a project-based learning environment infused with technology. Preparations for the program began last year, with professional development for teachers occurring over the summer.

The schools will receive their grant money over a three-year period, starting with more than



Joining School Board President James Howard and Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón (l to r) in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Project grant announcement are SAHA President Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez, Mayor Julián Castro, and District 2 Councilmember Ivy Taylor.

\$1.4 million for Fox Tech and \$1.6 million for Sam Houston for the 2010-11 school year.

Eastside Promise Neighborhood Project

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has selected San Antonio as among only 21 communities for a \$312,000 federal education grant.

The Sept. 21 announcement was made at one of the SAISD beneficiary campuses, Wheatley MS.

"Our parents are really excited about the opportunities this will offer," said principal Horace Franklin, and added that he is optimistic the project will attract both new families into the neighborhood while providing added incentives for those already there to stay.

Highlighting the Promise Neighborhood Project is the fact that school and neighborhood revitalization are inextricably connected. The goal is to ensure that all children have access to effective schools and strong support systems that will prepare them to attain an excellent education, and successfully transition to college and career.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Eastside and our Wheatley community," said Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón.

"This type of collaboration can bring about true transformation, making not only our community but our city stronger."

The focus of this planning grant will be the neighborhoods that correspond with Wheatley, including Bowden, Pershing and Washington elementaries, and the Tynan Early Childhood Education Center.

In addition to SAISD, the project is in partnership with the United Way of San Antonio, Bexar County, the city of San Antonio, the San Antonio Housing Authority, Trinity University and the Urban Land Institute.

The planning process will be led by a steering committee that includes representatives from the various agencies as well as parent representatives from the schools and residents from the Wheatley Courts and Sutton Oaks housing projects.

THE MAGNETS

High school

Business and Finance at Lanier
 Health Professions at Edison
 Health Professions at Fox Tech
 International Baccalaureate at Burbank
 Law Professions at Fox Tech
 Leadership at Jefferson
 Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology
 at Sam Houston
 Media Productions at Brackenridge
 Science, Engineering and Technology
 at Highlands
 Urban Agricultural Studies at Burbank
 World Languages at Brackenridge

Middle school

American Heritage at Poe
 International Baccalaureate Middle Years
 Programme Candidate at Lowell
 Technology at Rhodes
 Multilingual at Davis
 Multilingual at Tafolla

FAIR TO SHOWCASE MAGNETIC OPPORTUNITIES

The public is invited to learn about the excellent educational opportunities open to next year's 6th-graders and high school freshmen by attending the:

Magnet School Fair

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 29 (Wed)

Alamo Convocation Center

Representatives from each of the Magnets will be available to answer questions and provide information.

Each Magnet is designed to give students a strong scholastic foundation coupled with real-world experience.

Enrollment is open to all current 5th- and 8th-graders from throughout Bexar County, no matter which school they otherwise would go to, allowing students to attend the program that best fits their interest and needs.

The deadline for SAISD students to turn in their application to their school counselor is Nov. 18.

Applications from students who attend schools outside the District are due to SAISD's Department of Academic Support by Dec. 1.

For more information call 354-3626.

Selena-inspired dress by one of SAISD's own to close 'Celebrando Estilo'

It's the best of both worlds for Roger Martinez who's fortunate to have two vastly diverse - but equally loved - vocations.

When not serving as the home support liaison for Steele ES, the 1981 Lanier HS grad and 25-year SAISD veteran's fashion designs can be seen on the catwalk.

On Sept. 30 his latest creation - a gown made of ivory and light cream shantung and organza fabric - will be featured for the finale at the "Celebrando Estilo" runway show that celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with clothing the late singer and style icon Selena Quintanilla-Pérez might have designed.

Proceeds will benefit the Selena Foundation and the International Academy of Design and Technology's Career Education Scholarship Fund, where Martinez is set to complete his associate's degree in fashion design and marketing this December.



Steele ES students enjoy a light-hearted moment with Roger Martinez during lunchtime. Serving as cafeteria monitor is among the home support liaison's duties at the Southeast Side elementary.

But don't expect him to forsake either SAISD or San Antonio for the footlights of New York or L.A. The native San Antonian loves the District and this city too much to leave.



**Celebrando
Estilo**
Sept. 30

La Villita Assembly Hall
www.celebrandoestilo.myiadtsa.net

"SAISD has been good to me. Fashion is a second career," he said.

His duties at Steele include coordinating community involvement, business partnerships and the parent volunteer monthly meetings.

This versatility is among Martinez's qualities that make him such a valuable employee to Anita O'Neal, his principal.

"He brings the creative and resourcefulness skills he uses as a fashion designer here to Steele, and applies them to whatever task he is needed to do," she said.

Roger on Great Day SA

As part of a promo for "Celebrando Estilo," Martinez and his gown modeled by Stephanie Montiel who will wear it in the runway show will be featured on:

Great Day SA, KENS-TV
Sept. 29 (Wed) at 9 a.m.



Frequently-asked questions about SAISD Bond 2010

In order to inform voters about the \$515 million bond election voters will decide Nov. 2, Trustees, District staff and school administrators are holding forums and meeting with parents and community members. Following are some of the questions we've been getting, with answers for your information as well.

Q: What is a bond and why do we have elections?

A: Just like homeowners borrow money in the form of a mortgage to finance the purchase of a home, a school district borrows money in the form of bonds to finance construction of new schools and renovation projects. Both are repaid over time, but in order for a school district to sell bonds, it must go to the voters for approval. By law, bond funds may not be used to fund daily operating expenses or salaries. Bond funds may only be used for the projects previously described.

Q: When would construction begin and end on projects?

A: A general schedule for major projects includes a year of design, three months of bidding and award to contractors and two years of construction. Some projects may require as much as three years of construction due to phasing to ensure safety and limited interruption of students and staff. Acquisition of computers and playground equipment would proceed immediately following funding of bonds. Design for safety and security projects also will proceed quickly with awards to several contractors allowing for installations at multiple campuses simultaneously.

Q: Would the renovations address energy efficiency?

A: Yes. Current codes including energy codes will be complied with to improve energy and utility efficiency including upgraded insulation of exteriors such as roofing, walls and windows; efficient air conditioning and heating equipment; efficient lighting and sensors; use of low flow toilets and urinals, condensate water storage and reuse for landscape irrigation. Partnerships will be pursued for grants available for power generation such as solar panels.

How were the schools chosen to receive major renovations?

A: Selections for Phase I projects were made with the goals to renovate schools in all areas of the District, fully update the main schools receiving students from the consolidation of five campuses, and include facilities with significant infrastructure and/or capacity needs. Renovations and upgrades of all remaining schools in the plan would be completed in future phases of implementation.

For Your Benefit

Re-introducing the Humana work-life Employee Assistance Program

In this first edition of "For Your Benefit" for the new school year, we highlight one of the longtime, trusted services the District's insurance provider has to offer, including assistance in areas of which you might not be aware.

Why seek EAP?

Life, relationships, work, money, legal, family, and everyday issues can be challenging. Sometimes you need help and guidance coming up with answers and practical solutions.

For those times, you can count on the Employee Assistance Program as your confidential source to help you address personal and professional issues that may interfere with health and productivity.

What does help include?

- Handling of a crisis
- Accessing appropriate resources in the community
- Identifying a licensed, experienced professional at a convenient location for face-to-face consultations
- Assistance in accessing your behavioral health benefits when help beyond EAP is needed

In addition to help in times of a crisis, EAP can assist with daily and other needs including connecting you with work-life consultants for:

- Child care

- Elder care
- Financial
- Legal, such as will planning

Is confidentially guaranteed?

We maintain strict confidentiality as defined by law.

When is EAP accessible?

EAP's work-life services are available 24-hours a day, 365-days a year so that you can get the right kind of help expediently in order to be your best at home and at work.

How do I begin?

Call 1-866-440-6556, toll free. Remember, it doesn't have to be a crisis; EAP addresses both complex issues and everyday questions.

What happens when I call?

A customer service representative will connect you with an employee assistance specialist who will:

- Discuss your concerns with you
- Gather additional information
- Suggest options for resolving your situation, including arranging for additional assistance if necessary

Accessing your EAP online

- Visit: Humana.com
- User Name = SAISD
- Password = SAISD



Strike up the bands for the annual showcase!

There will be drums and horns galore as high-stepping performers take to the field for:

The SAISD Marching Band Showcase

6: 30 p.m.

Oct. 5 (Tues)

Alamo Stadium



in the Spotlight



Pep rally for literacy

District 125 State Rep. Joaquin Castro (top right) gives students at Twain MS something to cheer about. Led by Edison HS spirit groups, the Bearcats packed their school's gym for a Sept. 21 pep rally to express their support for reading and for the generous gift of books they received through his initiative SA-READS. Details were announced at a news conference in the library where Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón (lower right photo) thanked the representative for his efforts, and also spoke about his own love of reading. Twain and other schools citywide were beneficiaries of the sixth-annual drive through which more than 60,000 new and gently-used books were collected over the summer.



On a firm foundation for our future

During a presentation at the Sept. 20 School Board meeting, Head Start Program students (accompanied by their parents) show some of the goals they plan to achieve, thanks to the education they now are receiving as 3- and 4-year-olds.



¡Viva Mexico!

Storm ES bilingual 1st-graders Jessica Godinez and Yahir Perez dance "La Raspa" during a 16 de septiembre performance.



A well-informed public

Kamal ElHabr, associate superintendent of construction management (left photo, l to r), and District 1 Trustee Rubén D. Cuero speak with Lavaca Neighborhood Association Vice President Curtis Bowers at an SAISD Bond 2010 presentation, while Henry Flores (right photo) of the Edison Homeowner's Association accepts information from Assistant School Board Secretary Olga Hernandez at their gathering. These are among presentations Trustees are giving on the \$515 million bond program voters will decide on Nov. 2.

