

March 8, 2012

## Dr. Sylvester Perez takes helm as District's interim superintendent



Dr. Sylvester Perez, SAISD interim superintendent

An Alamo City native and 40-year veteran educator returns to his hometown to lead SAISD through the transition to a permanent superintendent.

Dr. Sylvester Perez was selected by Trustees in a special-called March 1 School Board meeting.

"Dr. Perez brings extensive experience and demonstrated leadership, and will serve the District well in this transition," said SAISD Board President Ed Garza.

Prior to joining the University of Texas at Austin as an adjunct professor, Perez served 13 years as a superintendent.

Most recently he headed the Midland ISD,

where he retired in June 2010. He previously was superintendent for the San Marcos Consolidated, Clint and Mathis school districts.

Perez also has held a variety of positions - classroom teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal and principal - in several school districts throughout Texas and New Mexico.

Locally, these include Judson, North East, Northside and his own Harlandale, from which he was graduated.

As a student at Harlandale HS, Perez was named to the Express-News All-City High School Baseball Team in 1967.

His post-secondary education was obtained at New Mexico Highlands University where he earned his master's and bachelor's degrees.

Perez received his doctorate in educational administration from Texas A&M University.

Additionally, he has earned numerous honors and awards. Among them:

- 2006 Texas Superintendent of the Year finalist
- 2006 Highlands University Hall of Fame inductee
- 2004 San Marcos Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year
- 1999 election (first Hispanic) to the Texas University Interscholastic League Legislative Council
- 1998 Harlandale ISD Hall of Fame inductee

Perez will serve at the will of the School Board until a permanent replacement is named, which is expected to be this summer.

Dr. Robert J. Durón, who had been the District's superintendent since July 2006, resigned Feb. 20.

He has been hired as the Texas Education Agency's deputy commissioner for finance and administration.

## National and state leaders visit District schools to promote education

Call SAISD VIP central. Bonham Academy recently was graced by a visit from the Texas Secretary of State, while on Friday Fox Tech HS has the distinction of hosting the White House Hispanic Community Action Summit.

Among those scheduled to deliver a keynote speech will be U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.



Students from New Tech HS (located at the Sam Houston HS campus) show DOE representative Jane Hodgdon (right) and other guests what they are learning in their engineering class.

San Antonio is one of several cities nationwide holding these summits connecting senior Obama Administration officials from diverse policy areas with community leaders, business owners and other stakeholders to discuss issues critical to the Hispanic community.

Selected to play an important role at the summit is Brackenridge HS. Media Productions Magnet students will lend their expertise in camera operation and video production for live streaming, while student journalists will provide on-air summaries of the day's events.

On Thursday morning three SAISD Eastside schools were also in the limelight when other DOE staff members - along with representatives from the Center for the Study of Social Policy, United Way World Wide and Urban Institute - toured Sam Houston HS, the Tynan ECEC and Wheatley MS, where they were treated to lunch.

They were in town to visit some of the campuses that are part beneficiaries of Promise Neighborhood Project federal grants focusing on

the connection between school and neighborhood revitalization.

And last week a high-ranking Texas official took a trip to Southtown in honor of Teach For America Week. While there Secretary of State Hope Andrade reconnected with TFA teacher David Nungaray, who had extended the invitation to visit his 4th-graders upon meeting her previously in San Antonio.



Bonham Academy principal Janet Perez (left) and 4th-grade teacher David Nungaray welcome Texas Secretary of State Hope Andrade to their school.

## Trustees approve instructional calendar for 2012-13

Employees, parents and community members can start making plans now for next school year.

During the March 5 special-called School Board meeting Trustees selected calendar C, one of three drafts for which staff and community members voted.

### 2012-13 calendar highlights

- **Aug. 20** – Teacher start date
- **Aug. 27** – Students first day of school

- **Sept. 3** – Labor Day
- **Oct. 26** – End of first nine weeks
- **Oct. 29** – Staff development day
- **Nov. 19-23** – Thanksgiving holiday
- **Dec. 24-Jan. 4** – Winter break
- **Jan. 17** – End second nine weeks
- **Jan. 18** – Staff development day
- **Jan. 21** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **March 11-15** – Spring break

- **March 29** – Good Friday
- **April 5** – End third nine weeks
- **April 8** – Staff development
- **April 26** – Battle of Flowers Day
- **May 27** – Student holiday/staff development teacher professional time/bad weather day
- **June 7** – Last school day
- **June 10** – Bad weather day

## New District appointments and assignments announced

**Barbara Rodriguez,**  
federal programs senior director  
Formerly: SAISD funds management,  
financial services department director

**Pamela Walls-Tankerson,**  
Cameron ES principal  
Formerly: Walker Intermediate School,  
School of Excellence in Education principal

**Maria Avila,**  
Margil ES principal  
Formerly: Margil ES assistant principal



Irving MS



Fox Tech HS



Courtesy photo

Brackenridge HS varsity



Courtesy photo

Brackenridge HS junior varsity

## Primero mariachis

A quartet of SAISD mariachis has cause for major celebration following successes at weekend events. Placing first at the La Feria del Mariachi competition in San Marcos are musicians from Irving MS and Fox Tech HS. Each took the top honor in its category, middle and high school, respectively. Leading Irving are teacher Cirilo Campos and his assistant Carla Ramirez. Fox Tech is under the

direction of teacher Rhonda Garcia and assistant David Zamarripa. The 13th-annual competition is sponsored by Texas State University. Bringing home two trophies from the sixth-annual Roma (Texas) Mariachi Festival were Brackenridge HS mariachis. The varsity finished first while - in their first competition ever - the junior varsity placed second. Their director (not shown) is John Nieto.



## Hawthorne rocks contest

Jourdan Vargas' portrayal of the rhythm of Fiesta earned her first place for City Council District 1 in the annual River Parade art competition. The Hawthorne Academy 5th-grader (shown with her art teacher Diane Sosa and King Antonio Tom Green) will receive a one-week scholarship to attend the Southwest School of Art's summer art camp while Hawthorne will get \$1,000 for art supplies.

## On to Salt Lake City

State winners at this past weekend's Distributive Education Clubs of America competition are (l to r) Diego Solis, Jose Ramirez and Santiago Calderon of Brackenridge HS. Their win in the Public Relations Chapter Project category qualified them to compete at the DECA International Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah in late April. Their advisors (not shown) are Omar Gallegos and Cecil Lara.



Courtesy photo



## Kudos from KONO

Steele ES principal Natasha Flowers (left), KONO 101.1 radio mascot Top Dog, air personality Dave Rios and 5th-graders celebrate Deborah Botello's selection as the station's "Teacher of the Week." The honor includes a \$100 gift card.



Courtesy photos

## Crime-fighting teens

Taking "Top Dog" honors for Central Texas at the recent Texas Law and Public Safety Competition hosted by Sam Houston State University (left photo) are Fox Tech HS Criminal Justice students. They also placed first in SWAT and third in both building search and felony stop. Their teacher (with trophy) is Eric Otto. Placing first in criminal incident at this contest were Lanier HS Criminal Justice students Bianca Garcia and Joe Pena (right). Bianca also placed first place in traffic stop. Their teacher (not shown) is Tamara Ford.

All SAISD schools and most offices will be closed  
March 12-16 in observance of Spring Break, and  
will re-open Monday, March 19.

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*