



## Rethink & Redesign Task Force Members

Dr. Roberto Basurto, Asst. Supt. Of Academics  
Phillip Chavez, Deputy Superintendent  
Myrna G. Martinez, Asst. Supt. Of Business Ops.  
Elvis Williams, Asst. Supt. Of Operations  
Olga Moucoulis, Chief of Staff and Communications  
Jose Hinojosa, Sr. Director of Education Ops.  
Dr. Mary Miller-Baker, Sr. Director of Early Childhood & Accelerated Learning  
Richard Santoyo, Trustee, Co-Chair  
Dr. Mario Longoria, Community, Co-Chair

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Rethink and Redesign Community Meeting – JFK October 19, 2023

Meeting starts at 5:30 pm with Olga opening, silence your phones.

**Dr. Hernandez** welcomes and thanks the community for coming out. Thank you to our staff from our district for being here and members of the local community, different groups from the district. Want to acknowledge others in this room, Martha Castilla – board president, 2 trustees who are also part of the task force how we would rethink and redesign the future of our district. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year in the district. When talked to community, we are very proud of the district, we want to be able to tell the story of the district and want our grandkids to attend the district. We want to be able to tell the social distance of the district. How do we continue to be here and continue to tell our story? Had a discussion with Dr. Jimmy Vasquez and asking him for wisdom as we continue these conversations. Castilla a graduate from Memorial, Joseph Guerra, board secretary and a graduate of Edgewood HS, who is part of the task force. Santoyo is a graduate of JFK and a co-chair of the task force. Dr. Mario Longoria is also a co-chair and a graduate of JFK. Want to ensure we afford a future for our kids, the maximum support for them. They need support programs. I know our kids get up for theatre, athletics, drill, band. They still matter. We have to have challenging conversations. My goal is to be transparent with what we do. Today you will hear facts, how the task force was created, next steps and where the process is moving forward. I have met with all campuses and departments in the district. Everyone has had the opportunity to hear the presentation and the knowing's. Everyone's input matters.

The purpose for today's meeting is to better the position of EISD.

Community norms, please ensure you silence your phones. We will allow 2 minutes at the mic. Let's stay respectful of everyone's thoughts and let's allow others to speak and language. Please know you are modeling for the children in the room. Please use the cards we have provided to you if you don't want to speak.

**Martinez** – the task force is what led us here today. Our object is for the district today and future years to ensure our students have opportunities in the classroom and to serve in the future. We have 2 members from each of the campuses, staff and parents. We have one community member per trustee. We also had board members. We asked for knowledge balance for the whole district. Wanted members to be committed to our district and our students. We can't do things for our students with the money we are spending. We do have to be respectful, and we asked our members to do this. Thank you to our co-chairs as this we a lot of work. Thank you to our task force members for donating your time.

Why now?

**Basurto** – will share with you the context. We asked our task force to use criteria. Geo location, enrollment cap, facility, instructional program, academic and financial impact. Let's talk about our enrollment. 2016-2022. Each line represents a grade level. Review of the decline of the enrollment by grade level. What does the future hold? We had a demo study. This is a 10-year enrollment by school levels then the whole district numbers. What you see next is a map. There are 59 new charters within a 5-mile radius of the San Antonio region.

Task force also looked at the facility conditions. Student capacity by campus and the enrollment.

Indicators of success – we must ensure we protect the core indicators. One indicator the state has is CCMR. review of the rates from each high school from 2022 through 2024.

EOC for high school. 3-year trends. 2020 – 2023. Clear improve of scores. We are moving the academic needle in the right direction.

Current school structures around our schools. Early head start, early childhood, elementary campuses (pk - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, pk - 5<sup>th</sup>, and k - 5<sup>th</sup>), single gender campuses, middle school campuses, high schools, spec ed., alternative campuses.

**Miller** – considerations for our future from our task force. We have had 4 sessions over the last 2 months. Review of questions for the task force. Used these criteria for our challenges, and to share with the community.

1. Must be safe environment.
2. Combine high performing programs.
3. Transportation has to be a priority
4. Hire and retain best teachers
5. Mental health
6. Job training
7. Create daycare centers for children or adult facilities

**Basurto** – recommendations from the task force. There will be a total 11 recommendations and external. When you review them, some are counter to each other, some go hand in hand. We will not be able to do all of them. Know this is why we are here to hear your feedback.

1. Reconfigure WISE with GELP – because location and school repair
2. Reconfigure FAA to 6-12
3. Add pre-k to all elementary home campuses
4. Reconfigure IB programs @ Las Palmas by sending students from Cisneros to Las Palmas
5. Reconfigure LBJ and Roosevelt to Loma Park
6. Move Stafford ECC to Cardenas, GELP and other elementaries
7. Create new central at FAA and repurpose central office
8. Move HBG students to WISE and LBJ
9. Move WISE to other elementary schools
10. Reconfigure GELP as prek - k and move 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to WISE
11. Move Burluson to FAA

Now that we have shared and want to let you know these 2 kept coming up

1. Create transportation plans to align recommendations with needs to provide safety and easy access for parents
2. Continue to monitor the safety of all campuses

Follow up assessment – this is going to be where we are going to hear from you. Review of the graphic.

**Miller** – provided you a fact sheet. Asking you to join us.

What ideas do you have for the task force to consider helping narrow down their recommendations?

1. Jasmine Gomez - new resident from New York, Family parent, ES, MS, new to all of this, went into LBJ – 6 students here total. 3 at LBJ, don't want them walking where it isn't safe. Children scattered. They are going back to LBJ, no transportation. We moved to this location for Loma Park and Las Palmas. How would you consider the charter schools, what are they providing that we are not? What are you doing to implement those same standards?
  - a. Thank you, we will consider.
2. Belinda Pena – know about the task force, put them in the front so we know who is over the campus in the task force. What makes that person decide for all of us.
  - a. reason for this meeting so we hear from you. – but can they go to the front, so we know this? – please stand
3. Stella Camacho – were the innovation zones considered? Academics structure of high school, if we have fewer students, the ratio should be less for teachers, why are our scores not better? Was the consideration the age, repair of the buildings considered?

- a. one night for just programming and yes, we talked about innovation schools. Age and condition of the building, yes that was second night. Let's students = smaller class size, it is based on student ratios. We are having to collapse classes. we are now having to combine 2 classes to 1.
4. Chavez – Wrenn MS, what is going to happen to our teachers, are we moved with the students? Our attendance is low, busing students to the schools. Some kids are not going to show up to the new school, we can't get them to the campus they live next to.
  - a. part of the visit at the campus, we still need the teachers, we still need staff. You will not lose your position. Attendance and transportation go hand in hand. If the student not going to the school, are they attending another campus? We have to go back to that and look at the challenge.
5. Aggie Jaramillo – it is a very tough job, we did not have enough parent participation. It's very important at parents to come and give your feedback to us. We know financially it is hurting the district. These changes have to happen, but we need feedback from the community. We need to focus on the kids we lost. We need to try to get our kids back. We need to find those kids.
6. Mariana – part time employee, retention of students. As they withdraw, are we conducting interviews with parents and students? Idea because they can have all kids at one school. Like to hear why they are leaving. Close the gap, look at the other place so see what they are offering and what are we offering. –
  - a. same examples. If a campus only offers certain levels, the other kids are asked to go somewhere else. That is excellent for our committee to hear and think about.
7. Jason Fonseca – Las Palmas. Getting help for moving staff to new schools. Bring Cisneros to Las Palmas. Las Palmas does an amazing job with the class sizes with the girls. Anytime I have reached out, they have responded. The teachers have been able to do what they need to. Worried about the class size, are you going to have an aide or other teacher when you move students from one campus to another.
  - a. if we do consolidate, our campuses can take the capacity. Goes back to keeping the same number of teachers, but we will look at the class sizes.
8. Escobar – Las Palmas – understand the redistricting. Takes everyone working together, there will be speedbumps, but we will get there if we stick together. Our kids are our future, and we have to do it for them.
9. JFK Graduate – member of Thompson, proud of my community and the involvement. Proud of the district of what they have done for the community. There needs to be more community involvement with this process. The timeline for when the timeline for these changes is small. Why did it take so long to communicate this and why did we not be involved? – this has been going on for a couple of months. We do have to work hard to get this out. Take this whole heartily. If we have not done a good enough job and we will address that. The timeline does relay to wanting to make decisions for our students and so they know where our students will be next year. We will continue to have this conversation.
  - a. what we are doing is about the children for the children. Yes, our adults matter but this is for our students. We are expediting due to our funding, while this seems fast, if we don't do something today, we will not be able to do for the future of our students. – even though recommendations are going into effect next year, there will be a plan.
10. Elizabeth Herrera – MS child, Loma Park – feel like that school is a monument, if you decide to not fix the school have you thought of the all the people you will lose. The teachers love it there. We know it needs a lot of work. Suggestions, close Truman. Job security for Edgewood. Want to see, can we voice our opinions to the task force? I have asked but not know who they are.
  - a. talk to your principal first, job security for the staff. Does a large school with high enrollment, does it fact, yes it does? When we come back to the task force, the facility committee and the board will think of all of this. Hard to consider a school with high vs low
11. Tina Morales – community member, same questions keep popping up. Have gone through the process. We believe to not re-invent the wheel; we do this when there is change in the leadership. We never servant our student body. From ES to HS, our students can express themselves. I speak for the English department, we always make sure they can read, write, and speak. Don't know if we have graduates from each high school in the task force. Not doing a good job. We used to have a newspaper to the community, don't have it. Not everyone had technology. This is the first-time people here are hearing this. Know our community and engagement is low. Leave FAA alone, it's for the students.

- a. thank you. Morales. We just discussed today the communication to our teen board. Had 3 students attend lsg with our board. The 3 students that were there had great input but also did a great job teaching our school board. We hope there is an opportunity to communicate better. All staff, know me and the board say we don't want to, this is the beginning of a multi discussion. We know Loma need help. This is the beginning of moving that direction. We are here about people and start a dialogue as we need your input.
12. Melody Herrera– I have a nephew at Loma - want to see the list of advisory members. Information is not automatically posted. Would like to see the whole process, if the meetings are recorded, can we get them? Task force members need to visit the campus they represent. What other way is the district looking to cut costs. Why was all tax payer money spent? What if a school closes? You all talked about Truman. What are we doing with the properties that are vacant?
  - a. yes the task force was asked to consolidate but what to use the facilities for.
13. Irma – where are the teachers and paras, they need more incentives. They work hard and give it their hall. More incentives to keep the teachers. Then you all educators.
14. Dalia Castillo – 8 nephews that attend Edgewood. Presented good information, better than SAISD. We had to ask for the information, but you all did that great. Y'all need to, your job, we elect you, represent the teachers, y'all need to get to the private schools that are high ratings. Get our kids. We have principals that hold down our teachers. Recommend to the board, implement 3 parents, 3 teachers, and students. If you are not doing the job but may they can.
15. Juan Hernandez – task force, never heard of it. How could we have gotten in. what qualifications were looked at. 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at FAA. Behavior issues, think exposure to high school could be bad. HBG no charter schools around location, WISE has Compass Rose, so they would be move HBG. Why are we using that as a factor?
  - a. HBG when we talked about wise, compass rose is down the school LBJ there is a charter waiting. When you think about HBG there is not one close. The principals were charged with selecting the teacher and parent rep. when FAA was designed, that was the model it was supposed to be. The same concerns did come up at first. So yes, we will still look at that. – does that close other opportunities for that program? – no the children would choose that.
16. Roman – if these schools are downsizing and we are consolidating, what, were these schools being considered traffic, safety for students when it comes to transportation.
  - a. time stamp transportation schedule for start and end time. Will not increase class sizes as we are keeping the same number of teachers, we still need the teachers in portion of the students. It will save us from refurbishing. The number of teachers would stay the same. Programs, want to ensure bilingual stays with bilingual. By law, still 22-1, state does not mandate at any other level, but the district has in place 25-1. There are some classes that are larger.
17. Amanda Casillas Gallegos, Burbank, daughter knows 5 different languages, son studying mechanical engineering with 5 disabilities. I'm reflecting, there is a trifecta, wise, Brentwood to Kennedy. Sub teacher and love it here. Dual language is important, can get paid higher for bilingual. Look at the buildings need work and work on that. We have people coming in from other districts coming here. Seguin, California, we need to open our arms to everyone. Need to focus on spec ed and bilingual.
18. Raquel Rodriguez – HBG staff, part of task force, principal asked me as a staff member, but also put my mindset as a parent. Have my kids in the district at Loma, son at Gus. We did have a parent rep from each campus. First meeting was a full house, second less than half, third less than half, fourth less than half. Talked about attendance and our kids going to school. As a community we need to stick together. We as parents need to step up. End goal is student success.
19. Vanessa Nunez – practice locations, cheer didn't have a place to practice or store items. Kennedy and memorial only have one gym. Kids leave due to programs and facilities. CCMR, programs can help kids figure out what they could od. What is the plan for the students, facilities and teachers that are left? The facilities that will stay open will need TLC.
  - a. as we go into the plan for next year we will look at that.
20. Rosa Martinez – we have students that have graduated, universities and moved out of state. Student became an opera singer and went to New York all our students have an opportunity. A lot of the young parents do not encourage the students to go to school. It not so much of our students, it some of the parents to go to school. Our

board members try they're hardest bring this community up. It falls on the parents. If you know your neighborhood and know that student doesn't attend school, talk to them and ask them why.

Dr Hernandez closes – what did you hear tonight? This conversation does not come easy to anyone. If we are going to be here to tell our story, we have to have these conversations. This shows this is not an easy conversation. Our kids deserve facility that they can be happy to come to. Asking you when you walk away, give us advice to elevate us.

Meeting closes at 7:11 p.m.