



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: September 20, 2017

Purpose: Report Only Recognition Discussion/ Possible Action

From: Cynthia Bills, Director of STEM & Advanced Academics
Crissy Franco, Coordinator of CTE
Delinda Castro, Chief Academic Officer

Item Title: Middle Schools Redesign: Update on the Academies of Choice

Description:

In our commitment to offer more choice to students and parents, the District recently conducted a survey requesting community input which resulted in three choice academies being selected for each middle school. This report is an update for the Board of Trustees on the progress of our academies of choice.

Recommendation:

Report Only

District Goal/Strategy:

Strategy 2 We will develop a strong support system offering opportunities across the curriculum to create an innovative school experience, teaching students to value their education and motivate them to achieve excellence.

Funding Budget Code and Amount:

CFO Approval

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APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

DATE

Chief Officer:

9-11-17

Superintendent:

9-15-2017



STARTING A PROGRAM OF CHOICE

A Partnership between South San Antonio ISD and Systems of Great Schools



A Planning Timeline

2017 DRAFT

Why Programs of Choice???

SouthSanISD CoreBelief1: We believe in engagement of the school community for the success of our district.

SouthSanISD DistrictStrategy2: We will develop a strong support system offering opportunities across the curriculum to create an innovative school experience, teaching students to value their education and motivate them to achieve excellence.



The Power of Choice
Your future, Your choice!

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PHASE I: PRE-PLANNING (12 MONTHS AHEAD OF OPENING)

Parent/Student Feedback (surveys-priority)-Choosing a theme-**August 2017**

Parent Survey: Multiple Choice, online, print available

* Online will go live early August-print available at all elementary school "Meet the teacher" nights

Survey Questions:

1. All students live within an attendance boundary which determines the school they are to attend. This is known as their zoned school. Select your child's zoned school from the pull down menu.
2. How satisfied are you with the school you attend?
3. Choose up to three middle school themes (Areas of study in which your child has an interest. You also have the ability to list additional themes.(each theme will have a descriptor of the program)
4. How likely are you to attend a school, other than your zoned school, to access a program with a specialized area of study?
5. Provide any additional comments you wish to share on how South San ISD can best serve your learning needs through future Schools of Choice services.

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PHASE I: PRE-PLANNING (continued)



Gathering Stakeholders & Assembling Resources

- Assemble a district/campus design team- **August 2017**

A Design Team should include key staff members who are decision-makers. These individuals will help you review data, identify programs and themes and make the case for the rest of the staff. These should include staff representing all grades and subjects. The Design team should include all building administrators, key teachers, support staff and parents.

- Establish relationships with nearby Schools of Choice that offer your chosen theme

(Visit programs September 2017)

\$4,473,700
MILLION
and counting
in scholarships
awarded
2016-2017

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How Do You Select a Theme? (Design Team Action Item 1)

Know your Community and Your Staff

1. Review your survey data. (provided you get a fair sample)
2. What does your community and the parents of students you need to recruit value?
3. You will identify community resources (parks, museums, artists, colleges, libraries, arts groups, businesses).
4. Conduct informational meetings and focus groups (work with parents and community on visioning the school with the theme).
5. Share research on the theme and information about other like choice programs
6. You will need to share this plan and garner support.
7. What are your strengths as a school and staff?
8. What have you already been recognized for? (particularly think about the high school programs)



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Visioning your Choice Program (Design Team Action Item 2)



Visioning is a process of imagining and actually seeing the total school as it is when you will get to where you want to be. In visioning your Choice Program you will vision it four years from the start of your planning. It is backward by design as you start where you want to be and then work backwards. It involves a creative process of making a leap into the future and looking at all aspects of the school.

Visioning involves all of the senses and therefore you are seeking the school in its totality.

1. What is your vision of educational excellence?
2. What do you see as soon as you walk into the school or before you walk in that tells the theme?
3. What is in the hallways?
4. What work describes the theme? Describe it!
5. What work do you see in the classrooms that indicate the theme?
6. What are teachers doing in the classroom and out of the classroom?
7. What are students doing in the class and out of the class?
8. What are parents doing in the school?

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PHASE I: PRE-PLANNING (continued)

Communicate (celebrate) the chosen theme
to the community (Design Team Action Item 3)

- Prepare a fact sheet that addresses key questions related to launching your “school of choice” - **September 2017**
- Educate local leaders (school leaders, community leaders, parents) This is the time to look at potential partnerships-**Late September 2017**



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The Power of Choice **Your future, Your choice!**

South San Antonio ISD is committed to our vision that, "All students will enjoy successful education experiences to empower them to make decisions and enrich their lives in the future they create."



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