

MAY 19TH, 2021
SISD SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

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Across the district, we have many events and activities occurring in our schools, strengthening our students, and in turn our district. From a teacher's perspective these are opportunities for growth, learning, and may be crucial in the development of a student. To a student, the lens shows a different view, and now, we get to hear it.

Disclaimer: This month I'd only heard from two schools so bear with me on the lack of content, I'll give as much detail as I can.

During this past month SISD students participated in archery nationals! Students had a blast and were super proud of themselves and their work. In addition, Hollis School has added fencing to their physical activities and students are thoroughly enjoying the new sport. At Whale Pass School, students have planted potatoes, put new netting on their chicken coop, cleaned and planted in their greenhouse. Furthermore, students have begun studying Native American cultures, Colonial America, magnets and chemical reactions, have planned for a community clean up on May 17th, and a Le Conte glacier trip on the 25th of May.

As far as changes students would like to see goes, students have spoken very frankly about testing and its impacts on their mental health. I would like to note that as a student, I've spoken very plainly on this subject as well. As a student I don't find testing to be an adequate or accurate measure of student knowledge. A test accounts for a few hours of a students day and what they knew/remember during that time window. In addition, this does not take into account the days where students aren't capable of being 100% present for a test, whether it be sleep related, energy, something weighing heavily on their minds, or fear of failure. These variables impact a students ability to think critically and furthermore, their ability to answer questions. Testing is overall very stressful for students, it puts mental strain on a majority of students. It also has had a strong tendency to reduce a student's self esteem and self worth. Overall, it's emotionally and mentally very harmful.

It's a very flawed system, and students have called it barbaric, as it is hard for many students. Granted, there are students who have no problems testing and it's a breeze, but what's easy for someone else may be the most difficult task for another person. The system from a student perspective is completely and utterly flawed, and the only way it can be repaired is if powerful educators and school administrators speak out for their students and find an alternative.

May 19th, 2021 Student Representative Board Report

As far as other changes go, students would like administrators and board members to visit their sites and meet students. They ask for more extracurricular activities for all grade levels, more time for social interaction with their peers from across the district, and more books and sports equipment for their schools.

I put out another poll in the form asking again, if students were satisfied with their SISD education and if they were getting everything they needed from their schools. 11 students responded, when asked if they were satisfied with their education, 7 students said yes, 2 students said it was 50/50, and 2 said that they were unsure. When asked if they were getting everything they needed 7 students said yes, 2 said they were unsure, and 2 said it was 50/50. Students have found this year hard, they miss things like STEAM week as mentioned in one of the form responses. They miss their friends from the other SISD schools and everyone getting together, they miss Dancing With The Spirit. These things weren't just happy memories for a majority of these kids, while they are happy memories, these stand out as valuable and cherished traditions which have given them hope, happiness, and intangible support in times where they needed it. It is my hope that within the next couple of years we could bring these things back because our students need these outlets. They deserve these outlets to help them thrive.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout my time as a board member, and thank you all for banding together during such a difficult time, I know it was trying. I hope that SISD continues to grow, to flourish, and be what I have always thought to be the best school district in the state if not the country. It has been an honor serving on the board and has been such a valuable experience for me. Thank you to everyone, I wish you all the best of luck and joy during this time.