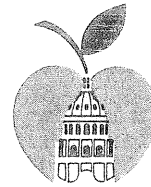


Austin Independent School District

Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent



March 31, 2006

Dear Becker Parents:

Upon further consideration, I am withdrawing my recommendation for a Board decision on the closing of Becker and Oak Springs elementary schools. Both schools will operate next year, just as they have this year, with the full support of this district. Because your principal, Dr. David Kauffman, has been chosen to open the new Southeast elementary school, we will begin the principal selection process at Becker with a posting of the position immediately. As part of this process, Dr. Yolanda Rocha will work with the faculty, staff and community to develop the principal profile to be used in the selection process.

I still believe that this district has to be more efficient and must confront the difficult financial challenges ahead of us in order to serve all our students well. But I have heard our community and Board.

Given the Board's response, I am putting both Becker and Oak Springs on notice that their viability is still in question. In the next few weeks, the Board and Administration will discuss the creation of a School Sustainability Task Force, which will establish a process, a set of criteria, and a structure for evaluating the future sustainability of our campuses in order to make recommendations on their future existence. These recommendations will be brought to the Board no later than October 2006.

We continue to believe that the cost of sustaining campuses that fall far below our utilization goals has a serious impact on the district's budget and our ability to serve all our students well. Given the under-utilization of the Becker and Oak Springs campuses, it will be up to those communities to bring us plans that have a realistic chance of dramatically increasing student attendance without having an adverse impact on other AISD schools.

While we will be looking closely at next year's attendance at Becker, please know that we appreciate your loyalty to your school and look forward to a successful academic year for your students.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Pascal D. Forgione, Jr.' The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools