



San Antonio Alliance of Teachers & Support Personnel

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The following was a letter to the editor written by Alliance President Shelley Potter and was printed in the San Antonio Express News on 6/26/10:

Focus on bond issue

In his Sunday column about the school closings in SAISD and Superintendent Robert Durón, Robert Rivard said a key element in Durón's strategy has been to shut down failing schools with declining populations.

Though this is oft repeated, it isn't accurate. The schools on the "close list" aren't failing. At least half the schools on the original list are "recognized" or "exemplary," the two highest ratings under Texas' rating system.

Rivard also implies that one specific person — the superintendent — makes or breaks a district. Not entirely. It is parents, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers and classroom teachers. All of us have seen superintendents come and go.

Regardless of who the superintendent is, teachers focus on the children, and many of us and other school employees dig into our own wallets to provide for some of our neediest children.

Most teachers have one guiding question: "What's best for my students?" Durón could ask this same question. If the most important thing for our SAISD students is to pass a bond issue in November, that should be the focus, not someone's contract. The superintendent could step up as a leader and focus on what is best for the district's children rather than what is best for him personally.

Between his \$260,000 annual SAISD salary and his \$41,000 part-time UTSA salary, Durón certainly isn't hurting. He should ask the SAISD board to take his contract discussion off the table so the focus and energy are directed at passing the bond issue.

Shelley Potter, President,

San Antonio Alliance of Teachers and Support Personnel

Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/Your_turn_--_June_26_2010_97194424.html?showFullArticle=y