PAISD superintendent, staff meet with Padres en Accion

Fernando Rosendo Ramírez
Hispanic Triangle News

PAISD Superintendent Dr. Johnny Brown and staff visited Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church to attend the Padres en Accion meeting. With the help from Jesus Abrego, Luis Alvarez, Dr. Bertha Garza, and Tatihana Morales, who acted as translators, the Hispanic parent group learned about the different programs available for students at PAISD.

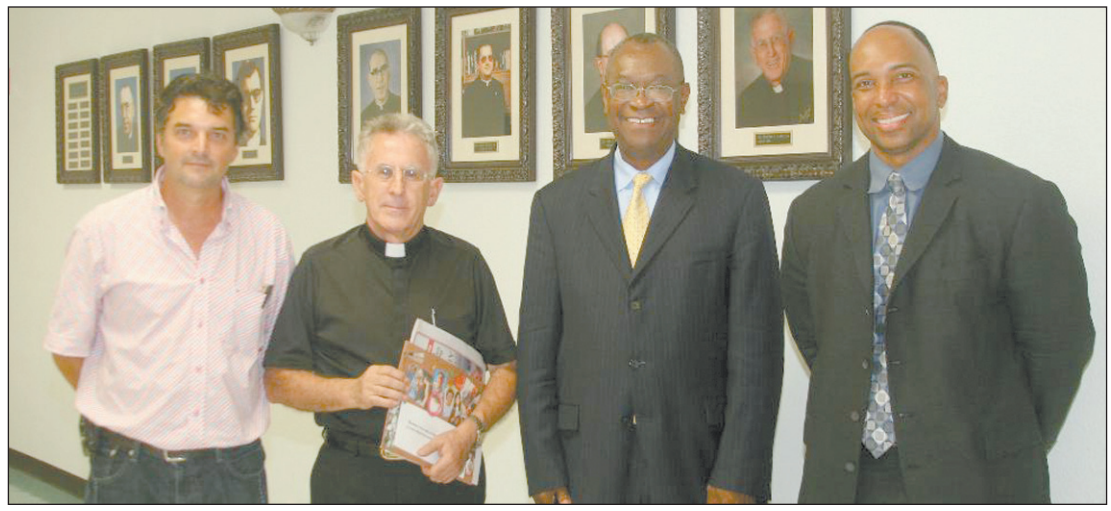
Father Blanco opened the meeting with a prayer and group President Luis Alvarez welcomed Dr. Brown. Dr. Brown thanked the parents for inviting him to the meeting and for their support in working with the School District to improve the relations between the school District and the Hispanic Community.

He said it was quite a change from last May when he faced angry Hispanic parents at the Administration Building and said he appreciated the warm welcome that evening where he would give a progress report on what was happening at PAISD.

He explained the bond proposals facing the district for two new elementary schools and improvements to the rest of the schools including the new Memorial High School located across the street from the church.

Dr. Brown told the group about the new appointments at Tyrrell Elementary. He said he was very happy to appoint a Hispanic Principal and Assistant Principal to the school and would strive to continue providing opportunities to qualified Hispanics when possible.

He then turned the program over to Dr. Mark Portiere, who introduced Dr. Bertha Garza, Tatihana Morales, Dr. Gene Rowry, and other staff members at the meeting. Dr. Garza and Ms. Morales talked about the Dual Language, ESL, and the Two-Way Immersion programs offered at Sam Houston, DeQueen, Travis Elementaries and Edison Middle School. Dr. Rowry talked about the advanced placement classes offered at the various schools and co-op classes offered at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. The panel answered questions the parents had about the different programs and turned the program back to Dr. Portiere.



Fernando Rosendo Ramírez/Hispanic News

PAISD Superintendent Dr. Johnny Brown, second from right, and staff members from the school district meet with Padres en Accion and discuss issues with parents at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Dr. Portiere fielded questions from the parent group and directed the parents to the staff members who could assist the parents with their concerns.

One parent made the comment that the Gulf Coast Soccer League had won a major state tournament and several of the players came from Memorial High School. He wanted to know why these same players could not win soccer games at Memorial High School. Dr. Brown and Dr. Portiere both assured the parent that PAISD cared about the soccer program and would follow up on his comment.

To close out the meeting the parents and PAISD staff heard some emotional comments from a recent graduate from Memorial High School. Carolina Ramírez told the group that she was proud to be an Honors Graduate of Memorial High School. She thanked her teachers and councilors for their help throughout high school but said she thanked her mother and father most for keeping her on task.

As she spoke of the importance of parental involvement in the education of his or her children, many people attending nodded in agreement. Her comments drew heavy applause from the crowd when she finished and and her mother, who was attending, beamed with pride.

Hispanic
Triangle News

Contributing Editors:

- Fernando Ramirez (409) 549-1901
- Eddie Cervantez (409) 651-3657

For advertising assistance contact:

Renae Alexander
(409) 721-2417

E-mail us at:

HispanicTriangleNews@Yahoo.com

Vol. 1 No. 2

©2007
Southeast Texas Newspaper Group

Dr. Tammy Black D.C.
"I will try my best to help you get your body BACK on the right TRACK."
Back on Track Physical Medicine
1914 9th Ave. • Port Arthur
1-409-982-1043 www.drtam.4t.com

City of Port Arthur Texas

John Beard, Jr.
Council Member - District 5
Office: 409/983-8270
Cell: 409/626-1179
E-mail: jbeardjr@portarthur.net
City Hall • 444 4th Street
P. O. Box 1089
Port Arthur, Texas 77641-1089

JUDICE'S SINCE 1927
FRENCH MARKET & DELI
3005 - 7th St.
Port Arthur • 982-3522
Order your fried turkey early!
$29.95
12-14 lbs avg.

SALE
SUITS
2 For
$250.00
$149.50 EA.
Reg. $300.00
NORMAN'S
Men's Fashions
122 Gateway Shopping Center
Beaumont, TX