The Open House Informational Meeting for Parent, Guardians, SDMC, PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) and Community started promptly at 5:00 PM. After parents saw Superintendent Richard Carranza’s video message and the parents enjoyed a performance from our student participants, Mr. Woods opened up the session with thanking the parents, guardians, faculty, staff and community. Mr. Woods also thanked the parents, staff, and community for the tremendous support that led to the success the school made on the STAAR Assessment for the 2015-2016 as shown on “ TEA Accountability Report Review “. Mr. Woods personally thanked the parents for sending their children to the tutorial programing that was offered to the Burrus Students. This joint effort helped the school move out of being an IR (Improvement Needed in the Science area) to being a Focus School. Mr. Woods briefly introduced all members of the faculty including new teachers, staff, SDMC Members, the community representatives and the PAC members. The parent community was introduced to Pastor Anthony Halley of True Light Baptist Church, Pastor Jerome C. Nickerson, Secretary for the Independent Heights Ministerial Alliance, and Rev. Ray Mackey, the community Accountability Chair representing the Independent Heights Greater Houston Baptist Ministers Alliance in an effort to strengthen the communication between our parents and the community. The newly elected PAC Members were introduced individually by Ms. Sandra Brewer, Burrus Title I Coordinator. The list of PAC members include Ms. Betty Hunt, President (who attended Burrus as a child and is now a grandparent), Ms. Ashari Pines Vice President and Ms. Angie Peredo, Secretary. Mr. Woods also reminded the audience that Ms. Hunt also serves on the SDMC committee as the parent representative.

Mr. Woods, also thank all of the retiree teachers for their years of service to HISD and that they would be greatly missed. Some of the retired teachers actually came back to Open House to say a final goodbye to the parents and community. Thanks to Ms. Rose Crawford for 45 years of service to HISD, Ms. Hollie Hollie for 39 years of service to HISD, Ms. Rachel Tavera for 25 years of service to HISD and Ms. Laura Paster, for over 30 years to teaching including HISD and other school districts.

Mr. Woods continued the introduction of our HISD Trustee Ms. Rhonda Skillern- Jones and personally thanked her for her continued support to Burrus Elementary School, the Independent Heights Community as well as all other HISD schools. Mr. Woods informed the parents of our new Superintendent Dr. Richard Carranza, he went on to let the audience know that Dr. Grenita Lathan our North Region Chief at that time was still our Chief, and informed the parents that Dr. Renee McKinnon was the newly assigned SSO to Burrus Elementary.
Before the final dismissal Mr. Woods reminded parents that tutorials would start in October, 2015 dates to be announced and that it was of high importance that the students who needed the most help attend. Once the most needed information was given to the parents they were dismissed from the general assembly to meet with their children’s teachers. The administration was available for any questions if parents needed to ask other information. We made a workshop available for parents to register to be VIP. There was also members of the Boys Scouts of America to provide our parents with extra-curricular activities for their students. Ms. Padilla and Mr. Zuniga were also available for all transportation questions or route information. Ms. Debose, community liaison was also available to speak with the parents regarding resources available to them in the community.

We were very pleased with the numbers of parents who signed in. Our records indicated 205 official signatures however, these numbers do not included the members of the community, students, faculty, and alumni that were in attendance.