

First Friday Noontime Forum Series
“Continuing the Growth and Prosperity of Downtown Lancaster”

Highlights

December 2008 –Highlights from the December Discussion
School District of Lancaster (SDoL) Update
–Pedro Rivera, Superintendent

- ❖ Enrollment averages 11,300 students. There are 900 homeless families in the District— about 10% of the children. Poverty is NOT an indicator of academic success.
- ❖ Interest in art and music education is increasing. To give new emphasis to the programs a music and art coordinator has been hired.
- ❖ In ten years 70% of the labor force will be highly-skilled technical workers. SDoL is working with the Career and Technology Center to create real life learning experiences focusing on expanding opportunities to work within local businesses.
- ❖ Community schools are being formed. Washington Elementary will have a health clinic and gym open to the neighbors. Other community schools are Lafayette, Wharton and Ross. Special efforts are being made to involve parents in the schools.
- ❖ A budget freeze is in place for administrative jobs and functions, but not teaching.
- ❖ Top three priorities—Change and improve the perception of the District; Get back to teaching and learning and to obtain adequate funding.