

Letter to the Editor – Full Version

Northside ISD holds its students to clear and strict standards when it comes to alcohol, drugs, and safety. The district promotes a “safe and drug-free school environment” and directs families to SACADA—the region’s leading provider of alcohol and DWI education. Students who violate alcohol policies face fast and automatic consequences, especially those in extracurricular programs.

The adults who govern the district should be held to no less.

In May 2023, Dr. Karla Duran was elected to the Northside ISD Board of Trustees. Over Labor Day weekend that year, she was arrested for DWI. After her arrest, the matter moved into a citizen-initiated removal suit under Texas law. At the initial hearing, the petitioners sought the appointment of a temporary trustee in her place, and the judge indicated readiness to do so. However, the case stalled when critical evidence—including sealed BAC records and the absence of the arresting officer’s testimony—could not be introduced, and concerns regarding the required bond and proposed replacement trustee created further delay.

The petitioner then exercised the right to request a jury trial, triggering a new phase of litigation that ultimately reached the Fourth Court of Appeals, where the matter remains unresolved nearly two years later.

At the time of Dr. Duran’s 2023 DWI arrest, the President of SACADA was Dr. Sonia Jasso. SACADA is the region’s primary agency for alcohol prevention, youth intervention, DWI education, and victim-impact programming—the very organization Northside ISD highlights on its own website as a recommended resource for families.

In May 2025, Dr. Jasso was elected to the Northside ISD Board with the support of the American Federation of Teachers. That same election produced a new union-backed majority, and at the first meeting afterward, Dr. Duran was selected Board President and Dr. Jasso as Vice President.

Meanwhile, Bexar County District Attorney Joe Gonzales recently recused himself from a second high-profile DWI matter—this time involving District 8 City Councilmember Ivalis Meza-Gonzales. As with Dr. Duran’s case, an Atascosa County prosecutor had to be appointed after the recusal. Two recusals involving two public officials raise legitimate questions about consistency and transparency in how these cases are being handled.

Northside ISD holds students accountable immediately. The community deserves confidence that the same commitment to safety, prevention, and responsibility applies equally to the adults who lead the district.

Accountability should not depend on who holds office.

— Citizen to Be Heard