

Impact of HSPVA

Regarding "Naming-rights deal sets off HISD flap" (Page A1, Wednesday), it gives me joy to write about an institution that made a huge impact on my life. When I heard HSPVA might receive a donation to help open the new campus with its essential core features, I breathed a sigh of relief - a long-awaited-dream is finally coming true.

Hearing about PVA at Clifton Middle School, I had developed a huge interest in opera, but I had never been to a live professional performance. I came from a small, single-parent family that struggled to make ends meet.

However, even with financial and familiar challenges, nothing hindered my studies and successes at PVA.

The teachers at PVA fostered my love of music and challenged me to rise to another level beyond my imagination. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the music faculty, as I went on to the University of Houston's Moores School of Music and participated and competed in activities nationally and internationally.

Since graduating from UH in 2010, I have been, and am still, currently an assistant conductor, educator and music director in the Fort Bend area. My success is a result of my studies and experiences at HSPVA.

We must continue to support this institution that cultivates leaders and thinkers. We must finish our new facility in-full to ensure every student is valued, appreciated, and equipped with what they need to be successful. HISD trustees should accept this gift for future students.

Gregory McDaniel, Houston