

1 [Increased funding for the San Francisco Unified School District.]

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3 **Resolution establishing a commitment to increase funding for the San Francisco**
4 **Unified School District.**

5 WHEREAS, A strong school system is the foundation upon which strong communities
6 are built; and,

7 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Unified School District (“District”) is charged with
8 providing a quality education to the approximately 59,000 public school students in the City
9 and County of San Francisco (“City”); and,

10 WHEREAS, the District has experienced fiscal shortcomings, resulting in a reduction in
11 its capacity to fulfill its mission of providing a quality education; and,

12 WHEREAS, Despite having a high cost-of-living, the City ranked only 34th in per pupil
13 spending when compared to 43 similar public school districts in the United States during
14 Fiscal Year 1999-00; and,

15 WHEREAS, Recent cuts in teacher positions have reduced District staff by 6.8 percent,
16 potentially negatively impacting the quality of education in the classroom; and,

17 WHEREAS, The salaries of teachers in the District rank 99th out of 100 major cities in
18 the United States; and,

19 WHEREAS, A quality education includes adequate staff, library services, and art,
20 music, and athletic programming, all of which are currently woefully underfunded in the
21 District; and,

22 WHEREAS, The number of youth under 18 residing in the City has been declining over
23 the last decade, a trend partially due to families fleeing in search of better schools in the
24 suburbs; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The District cannot solely rely on funds from the federal and state levels to
2 meet the financial needs of its public schools, in part due to an approximately \$1.8 billion cut
3 in K-12 education funding at the state level for Fiscal Year 2003-04; and,

4 WHEREAS, A majority of voters in many other California districts have voiced their
5 support for increasing the rate at which local government contributes to its education funding;
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, Although the City has recently increased its share of funding for public
8 education, this amount is still insufficient to cover District needs; and,

9 WHEREAS, The City has the responsibility to better meet the funding needs of its
10 schools so all students have the opportunity to receive a quality education, now, therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the City make it a policy priority to increase City funding allocated to
13 public schools, and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to deliver a
15 budget that reflects a greater commitment to public education by increasing District funding
16 each year so that it totals \$12 million for FY 03-04, \$16 million for FY 04-05, and \$20 million
17 for FY 05-06, and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That, after three years, the Board of Supervisors will revisit
19 the issue of City funding for public education and, if the financial goals outlined above have
20 not been met, reconsider using a dedicated budgetary set-aside to meet the needs of District
21 schools.