

File No. 100129

Committee Item No. 1

Board Item No. _____

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: City and School District Select

Date: July 22, 2010

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: _____

Cmte Board

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Motion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Digest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget Analyst Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Analyst Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form (for hearings) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MOU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Information Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Subcontract Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contract/Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Award Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Correspondence |

OTHER

(Use back side if additional space is needed)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Truancy Presentation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

Completed by: Andrea Ausberry

Date: July 15, 2010

Completed by: _____

Date: _____

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 20 pages. The complete document is in the file.

INTRODUCTION FORM

By a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time Stamp or
Meeting Date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction:

- _____ 1. For reference to Committee:
 An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.
- _____ 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee
- X 3. Request for Committee hearing on a subject matter.
- _____ 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor _____ inquires...".
- _____ 5. City Attorney request.
- _____ 6. Call file from Committee.
- _____ 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- _____ 8. Substitute Legislation File Nos.
- _____ 9. Request for Closed Session
- _____ 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Inspection Commission | |

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a different form.]

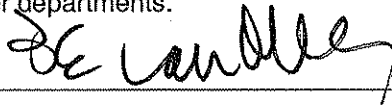
Sponsor(s): Supervisor Bevan Dufty

SUBJECT: Hearing on truancy initiatives

The text is listed below or attached:

Hearing to consider progress and future direction of Truancy initiatives by the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) and the City and County of San Francisco, including the new TARC (Truancy Assessment and Referral Center), Bayview CARES Center, and other efforts by the Mayor, District Attorney and other departments.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: _____



For Clerk's Use Only:

Every Day On Time

Strategies for a City, Community and
School District Partnership to
Improve Attendance and Reduce Truancy
for 2010-11 and beyond

An Important Part of a Larger Vision

- | | |
|--|--|
| SFUSD Balanced Scorecard | Student Support Services
Department goals: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access and Equity:
Make social justice a reality.• Student Achievement:
Engage high achieving and joyful learners• Accountability: keep our promises to students and families. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase student attendance• Increase student achievement• Increase pro-social student behaviors |

Grand Jury

- In response to the San Francisco Grand Jury Report we have learned:**
- Truancy is a community issue and concern and so requires the school district to foster strong collaborations and partnerships with city and community agencies to address the issue in a systemic and comprehensive manner.
 - A district-wide coordinated effort is necessary to address truancy and increase the district's attendance rate.
 - It is necessary to designate a Student Support Services Department Program Administrator as the SARB Chairperson to oversee the work of six Child Welfare and Attendance Liaisons,
 - Ten ERIPs (Early Retirement Incentive Program retired educators) and three credentialed counselors to follow up on ALLSARB contracts and participate in SARB hearings.
 - The need to educate families, school staff, and community members using a SARB brochure and a SARB Flow Chart for staff to understand the process.

Key Numbers as a District

- 56,000 students (K-12)
- Our focus for attendance is on our data from 2008-2009:
 - 3000 habitual truants
 - 2000 chronic truants

SFUSD Attendance-Comparisons of Number of Habitual and Chronic Truants 2005-2009

Habitual Truants: 10-19 unexcused days missed
 Chronic Truants: 20 or more unexcused days missed

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Elementary	2,346	2,405	2,472	2,033
Middle	535	441	427	406
High	2,034	2,567	2,581	2,528

Feedback:

What students and parents say

- I'm too depressed
- I'm afraid to go to or come back from school
- My classes are boring
- My friends told me to cut
- Teachers aren't relevant
- I'm too sleepy
- Too far behind, so why go?
- I drop them off and I didn't know they go out the back
- I took away cell phone and computer and still...
- My kids need help to catch up
- They take too many buses to get to school
- Can the police come?

Feedback from Youth Commission, SARB hearings and Stay in School Coalition

Objective 4

Increase incentives and publicize success to recognize and affirm student, family, school and community achievements in ensuring every student is at school daily.

- Solicit support for attendance incentives from SF Community
- Annual recognition of students/families for improved attendance

Objective 5

Increase on-going supports with city, neighborhood and district wide interventions for students and families at School Attendance Review Board hearings. Increase the percentage of parents and students who are accountable with compulsory education/ truancy laws.

- Develop an MOU that describes the need for inter agency collaboration clarifies exchange of information and identifies key follow up resources.
- Expand Truancy Court to meet with more students and families who do not comply with truancy laws.

Objective 6

Provide successful educational reentry opportunities for students at risk of dropping out.

- Continue to maximize use of CARE in the Bayview
- Open second Center for Academic Reentry and Empowerment (CARE) Center on the west side.
- Increase use of Cyber High and other credit recovery resources at all sites.
- Develop and implement academic supports in regular school day, "catch up programs."

Attendance Triangle

Chronic

- SARB Hearing/ Court Case
 - DA Referral
 - Home Visit(s)
 - CPS
 - More Phone Calls
 - Referral for Health Services and Academic Resources
- 3rd Letter to Parents*

Habitual

- Conference with Counselors/Learning Support Professionals (LSPs)
- Home Visits
- Wellness Center
- Complete SART Attendance Contract
- Progress Reports
- CPS Calls
- Phones Calls
- Incentives
- Follow Up Meeting
- Transportation
- SAP/ SSTs
- Revisit IEP
- Peer/Buddy System
- DA Mediation
- Assemblies for Parents

2nd Letter to Parents

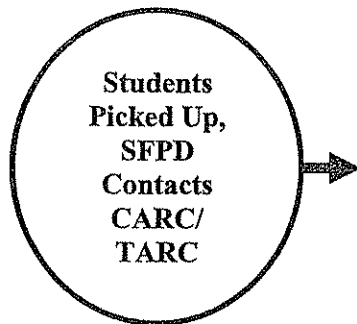
Emerging

- Alarm Clocks
- Attendance Contract
- Breakfast Clubs
- Case Managing
- CBO Referral
- Developing Relationships
- Home Visits
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Incentives
- Mentor
- Parent Workshop
- Personal calls home
- Progress Reports
- Referral to Wellness Program
- Review Graduation plan
- Sticker Chart
- Student Success Team (SST)/ Student Attendance Review Team (SART)
- Tutoring & After School Program (ASP)

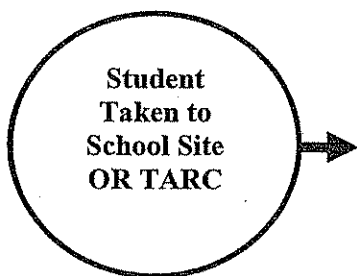
1st Letter to Parents

San Francisco Truancy Assessment Resource Center

SF TARC Flowchart PROCEDURES FLOWCHART

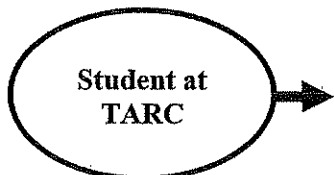


- Students who are truant and on the streets are picked up by SFPD between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.
- Police call in to SF CARC/TARC office to give the student name and information, and complete an 849bpc and brief incident report for SFPD upon release to SFUSD staff.
- An SFUSD counselor will look up the student's attendance/truancy information on Student Information System (SIS) and SharePoint.
- Data will be logged daily.



Upon first contact with a student:

- If the student has **not gone before the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) the prior year, has less than 6 unexcused absences and/or is elementary age/level.**
 - Student is taken back to school of origin.
 - SFUSD counselor, located at SF TARC, calls school site.
 - SFUSD counselor, located at SF TARC, calls parent/guardian.
 - School staff meets police and student is welcomed back to site.
- If the student has **more than 6 unexcused absences, was SARBed the previous year or a repeat truant with less than 6 unexcused absences.**
 - Student is taken to TARC (44 Gough Street).
 - Parent/guardian called by SFUSD counselor, located at SF TARC, to explain the situation.
 - School of origin is contacted by SFUSD counselor, located at SF TARC.
- If the student provides no information or inaccurate information.
 - Student is automatically brought to SF TARC.
 - Police accompany student to SFUSD counselor, located at SF TARC.
 - Call is made to parent/guardian.



At SF TARC:

- Students are assessed, and an Attendance Contract is developed with the student/family and signed by student/family before student is returned to school site or home.
- Student and parent/guardian are linked to support services.
- Student is released to school site or home by mid-day. Student is driven to their school with transportation approved by SFUSD Transportation Department, public transportation, or walks to site/home.
- Follow-up occurs by case manager assigned to student and SFUSD Student Support Services staff, such as the Child Welfare and Attendance Liaison assigned to the school site, in collaboration with school site staff.

Your Options in Truancy Court

You have been called to court today for a violation of Education Code § 48293, an infraction. When you appear in front of the judge, you will be presented with three options. Please take time to consider your decision and feel free to ask for clarification from the District Attorney, your caseworker, or the presiding judge.

	Work with the Court and School District	Plead Guilty and Pay a Fine	Plead Not Guilty
WHAT HAPPENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will enter a plea of guilty, which the judge will set aside until a later date. You will sign a "Parental Responsibility Plan," in which you commit to work with the court. You will come back to court several times over the next few months and review your child's attendance with the judge and the District Attorney. The school district and city social services will provide assistance to help your child attend and succeed in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The judge will accept a guilty plea in court today. If you plead guilty, you waive any right to challenge the District Attorney's case against you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your case will proceed to be heard in trial at a later date. The District Attorney will present a case against you outlining your student's truancy and the actions that have been taken by the School District. You will be able to challenge any claims made against you by the District Attorney. You have the right to an attorney, but none will be provided for you by the court. At the end of the trial, the judge will rule on your case.
END RESULT	<p>If your child attends school regularly for the next semester, you will not pay any fine and CHARGES WILL BE DROPPED. If not, you must pay a \$100 FINE for each truant child and the infraction will be reflected in your criminal record.</p>	<p>You must pay a \$100 FINE for each truant child and the infraction will be reflected in your criminal record.</p>	<p>If found guilty, you must pay a \$100 FINE for each truant child and the infraction will be reflected in your criminal record.</p> <p>If found not guilty, your case will be dismissed.</p>

Failure to pay any fine ordered by the court may result in a charge of contempt and a warrant for your arrest.

PLEASE NOTE: Any parent found guilty of a first truancy offense who is re-referred to the District Attorney may be charged under Penal Code § 272, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2,500 fine.



KAMALA D. HARRIS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

September 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The new school year has begun. Truancy remains an alarming problem in San Francisco schools. Please remember: **truancy is a crime. There are available resources if you need help getting your child to school.**

Most of you are getting your child to school every day. Unfortunately, some children continue to miss far too many school days. Last year, 4,839 San Francisco students were habitually or chronically truant and 2,074 of those students were in elementary school.

It is estimated that 75% of all chronic truants will eventually drop out of school. Children who do not graduate from high school are far less likely to find a living wage job. They are more likely to be arrested for crime or to become victims of violence. Since 2003, 94% of our City's homicide victims under the age of 25 have been high school dropouts. Everyone in the community suffers when children do not go to school.

My office works with the San Francisco Unified School District, parents and students to resolve attendance problems when they arise. However, when these attempts fail, we must use other tools, including prosecution, to ensure children are in school. The California Education Code and Penal Code outline serious consequences for truancy. A student is a "habitual truant" if s/he has ten or more days of unexcused absences. A "chronic truant" is a student who has unexcused absences of twenty days or more.

Parents can be criminally liable for truancy and punished by up to a year in county jail or a fine of \$2,500. Truant students can also face legal consequences, including loss of drivers license and work permit, community service and court supervision. If you are facing problems getting your child to school, I urge you to resolve the issues before they become serious. **Help is available at 701-STAY (7829).**

Even if your child is not experiencing truancy problems, keeping children in school is the responsibility of all San Franciscans. Please make this issue a priority for you and for your PTAs. Please join me in ending truancy so all of our children can learn and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kamala D. Harris", written in a cursive style.

KAMALA D. HARRIS
District Attorney
City and County of San Francisco

