

1 [Urging the San Francisco Board of Education and SFUSD Administration to Accept City  
2 Support to Prioritize Safely Re-Opening Schools]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Board of Education (BOE) and San Francisco**  
4 **Unified School District (SFUSD) administration to accept City support to prioritize**  
5 **safely re-opening schools, including but not limited to funding, staffing, convening,**  
6 **and negotiating resources; and urging the BOE to partner with the City on an inclusive,**  
7 **community-led process to consider renaming of public facilities, including schools.**

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9 WHEREAS, The State of California has indicated a desire to resource local  
10 jurisdictions working to safely re-open schools, such as Assembly Bill 10 (Ting) to allow  
11 schools in Red, Orange or Yellow tiers to open safely under state and county health orders  
12 starting March 1, 2021, with clear deadlines informed by scientific data with flexibility for  
13 counties to determine which school re-opening model fits best with facilities and workforce  
14 needs; and California’s Governor has proposed \$2 billion in state funding to provide up to  
15 \$750 per student for a safe return to in-person learning; and

16 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has continually demonstrated its  
17 commitment to supporting students, families, and teachers and safely re-opening schools  
18 since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing emergency monetary  
19 relief on top of its annual funding support, expanding mental health resources to dedicate  
20 Mobile Response Teams to students, dedicating Disaster Service Workers to staffing  
21 Community Learning Hubs, providing technical support and infrastructure assessments for  
22 school sites, and securing independent contracts to assess and upgrade school site  
23 ventilation; and

24 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors (BOS) of the City and County of San Francisco  
25 are on record with their support for safely re-opening schools with a science-based plan, as

1 evidenced by the unanimous adoption of Resolution No. 594-20, (on file with the Clerk of the  
2 Board of Supervisors in File No. 201368), which is hereby declared to be a part of this  
3 resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) recently released its  
5 student math and reading proficiency rates for the fall 2020 semester and analysis of overall  
6 student learning loss throughout Distance Learning, which clearly shows that students of color  
7 are disproportionately struggling across all areas of academic and social development, with  
8 Black and Latino students also more likely to be absent from class at least 60% of the time;  
9 and SFUSD surveys indicate that all students are struggling with increased mental and  
10 emotional health problems; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco Board of Education (BOE) Resolution No. 184-10A1  
12 (Sanchez, Cook, Haney), was adopted on May 22, 2018, setting forth a process for a  
13 volunteer blue ribbon panel of “exceptional people” to “offer findings and recommendations,  
14 through the Superintendent of Schools to the BOE regarding the potential renaming of  
15 SFUSD schools”, and while said Resolution does not lay out specific criteria for said blue  
16 ribbon panel to weigh in their decision-making, and said panel does not include historians nor  
17 school communities themselves, nor does it include resource allocations to ensure the  
18 success of the panel’s work product; and

19 WHEREAS, The BOE has availed itself on numerous occasions of Board Policy 7310,  
20 which lays out a process for school communities to petition for and change the name of  
21 schools, including but not limited to Malcolm X Academy (formerly Sir Francis Drake  
22 Elementary School), Cesar Chavez Elementary School (formerly Hawthorne Elementary  
23 School), and June Jordan School for Equity (formerly Luther Burbank Middle School) among  
24 many others; and

25

1           WHEREAS, On January 26, 2021, the BOE adopted Resolution No. 211-12A1  
2 (Sanchez), amending Resolution 184-10A1 with a commitment to rename 46 schools  
3 recommended by the volunteer blue ribbon panel, with new names to be reviewed by the  
4 same panel by April 19, 2021, at which point the panel will submit final recommendations for  
5 new names to the Board of Education; and

6           WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco’s recent creation of the Office of Racial Equity,  
7 established via Ordinance No. 188-19 on August 9, 2019, and co-sponsored by all eleven  
8 members of the BOS, was a significant step toward advancing the City’s commitment to racial  
9 equity and social justice across every single Department and supporting more equitable policy  
10 processes by engaging and empowering underrepresented community voices; and

11           WHEREAS, Mayor Breed has initiated a citywide process to consider what monuments  
12 should be removed and/or replaced, staffed by the San Francisco Arts Commission, the  
13 Human Rights Commission and the Recreation and Parks Department, there now exists an  
14 opportunity to have a wider citywide community-led discussion about San Francisco values  
15 and the appropriate memorializing of individuals and events; and

16           WHEREAS, Removing the names of slaveholders and racist colonizers from public  
17 facilities is a moral mandate that the City and County of San Francisco has embraced from  
18 stripping names from public streets and plazas to removing offensive and degrading public  
19 monuments; and

20           WHEREAS, The renaming process undertaken by the SFUSD blue ribbon panel was  
21 not only flawed, as reported by numerous press outlets, but also lacked appropriate nuanced  
22 discourse, inclusive input, and most importantly, a pedagogical underpinning to use this  
23 undertaking as “a teachable moment” for our students; and said process ultimately lacked the  
24 adequate staffing support and resources to ensure its success; and

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1           WHEREAS, The separate jurisdictional powers of the State-regulated SFUSD and the  
2 Chartered City and County of San Francisco notwithstanding, SFUSD students and their  
3 families are constituents and charges of the City, and said constituents have transmitted  
4 frustrated requests for effective, practical and urgent leadership from the City's elected  
5 officials to respond to the most pressing school community needs during the COVID-19  
6 pandemic; and

7           RESOLVED, That the BOS once again urges the BOE and SFUSD administration to  
8 prioritize safely reopening schools as soon as reasonably possible and to work collaboratively  
9 with City leadership to further this critical goal; and, be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of San Francisco pledges to continue its ongoing  
11 support with resources, including but not limited to staffing and technical support convening  
12 productive labor negotiations to further the City's goal of reopening schools as soon as it is  
13 safe to do so; and, be it

14          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the BOS urges the BOE to pause it's decision to  
15 rename 44 San Francisco schools out of the 46 recommended by the SFUSD blue ribbon  
16 panel and consider amending the BOE's process to utilize City resources within a larger  
17 citywide process to consider criteria and next steps on San Francisco monuments and  
18 renaming of public facilities, pursuant to inclusive public participation; and, be it

19          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the BOS remains committed to racial equity and social  
20 justice in practice, not just in theory, and will support the BOE's work to ensure that this  
21 discourse and implementation happens in the classroom through updated curriculum as soon  
22 as the schools are re-opened; and, be it

23          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the BOS directs the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to  
24 transmit this Resolution to the BOE and SFUSD Superintendent upon final passage.

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