

1 [Board response to the 2008-2009 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled “TRUANTS CAN BE
2 ‘JOYFUL LEARNERS,’ TOO: Unless Racism, Classism and/or Systematic Ineffectiveness
Prevent Future Progress”]

3 **Resolution responding to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings**
4 **and recommendations contained in the 2008-2009 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled**
5 **“TRUANTS CAN BE ‘JOYFUL LEARNERS,’ TOO: Unless Racism, Classism and/or**
6 **Systematic Ineffectiveness Prevent Future Progress,” and urging the Mayor to cause**
7 **the implementation of accepted findings and recommendations through his/her**
8 **department heads and through the development of the annual budget.**

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10 WHEREAS, Under California Penal Code Section 933 et seq., the Board of
11 Supervisors must respond, within 90 days of receipt, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior
12 Court on the findings and recommendations contained in Civil Grand Jury Reports; and,

13 WHEREAS, In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05(c), if a finding or
14 recommendation of the Civil Grand Jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a
15 county agency or a department headed by an elected officer, the agency or department head
16 and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if requested by the Civil Grand Jury, but the
17 response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only budgetary or personnel matters over
18 which it has some decision making authority; and,

19 WHEREAS, The 2008-2009 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled “TRUANTS CAN BE
20 ‘JOYFUL LEARNERS,’ TOO: Unless Racism, Classism and/or Systematic Ineffectiveness
21 Prevent Future Progress” is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.
22 090920, which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and,
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1 WHEREAS, The Civil Grand Jury has requested that the Board of Supervisors respond
2 to Finding Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well as Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3(A), 3(B), 3(C), 3(D)
3 and 4 contained in the subject Civil Grand Jury report; and,

4 WHEREAS, Finding No. 1 states: “Excessive truancy causes many problems for the
5 City including, less money for the school district, less literacy and more dropouts- which
6 means more crime, lower wages (and thus, fewer tax revenues), and a host of serious
7 societal problems;” and,

8 WHEREAS, Finding No. 2 states: “SFUSD employs talented persons whose interests,
9 for whatever reason(s), do not lie in marshaling the district’s resources to ensure that every
10 child gets to school;” and,

11 WHEREAS, Finding No. 3 states: “Collection of reliable data and proper distribution of
12 such data is a prerequisite for understanding the true nature and extent of the truancy crisis.
13 SFUSD is not collecting nor distributing to appropriate SFUSD personnel and outside
14 agencies data from which it can be determined the reasons for truancy, the demographic
15 information, the interventions attempted and the outcomes of such interventions. Using
16 aggregate data does not violate student privacy;” and,

17 WHEREAS, Finding No. 4 states: “Parents primarily are responsible to get their kids to
18 school. When parents fail to do so, the school district, with assistance of other agencies, has
19 the ability and the responsibility to take corrective action. SFUSD is not using the tools
20 available to it and is not providing in a timely fashion to other agencies the information
21 necessary for them to intervene;” and,

22 WHEREAS, Finding No. 5 states: “Despite the efforts of the Mayor, the District Attorney
23 and the Superintendent of Schools, neither the Board of Supervisors nor the Board of
24 Education have determined which of them will take the lead in creating and implementing a
25 truancy reduction policy;” and,

1 WHEREAS, Recommendations No. 1 states: “The Board of Supervisors should resolve
2 the stakes are high enough and the evidence strong enough to warrant greater involvement
3 by the Board of Supervisors in the fight against truancy;” and,

4 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. 2 states: “The Board of Supervisors should require
5 performance measurement data on a semester basis from the City-funded positions: Learning
6 Support Professionals and Stay-In-School Coordinator;” and,

7 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. 3 (A through D) states: “The Board of Supervisors
8 should use its considerable influence, including its power of the purse, to encourage SFUSD
9 to:

- 10 A. Create a truancy policy- preferably one that provides there is a zero tolerance for
11 chronic truancy in the elementary grades.
- 12 B. Appoint a person at a managerial level whose sole responsibility it will be to enforce
13 attendance laws and coordinate all efforts for truancy;” and,
- 14 C. Develop and implement a plan to correct truancy earlier in the year. This should
15 include augmenting the computer system (including the Truancy Module or School
16 Loop or whatever comes next) to find out who is truant early in the year, contacting
17 parents earlier in the year, getting feedback from teachers earlier in the year,
18 streamlining the process from SST [Student Success Team] to SARB [Student
19 Attendance Review Board], and making more and earlier referrals to the District
20 Attorney.
- 21 D. Develop, maintain, interpret and share reliable statistics regarding the reasons for
22 truancy, the demographics of the problem, the interventions undertaken by the
23 district and the outcomes of such interventions. Use these data;” and,

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1 WHEREAS, Recommendations No. 4 states: “The Board of Supervisors should direct
2 the Joint City and School District Select Committee to ensure Recommendation Numbers 2
3 and 3 (above) are implemented;” and,

4 WHEREAS, In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05(c), the Board of
5 Supervisors must respond, within 90 days of receipt, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior
6 Court on Finding Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well as Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3(A), 3(B), 3(C),
7 3(D) and 4 contained in the subject Civil Grand Jury report; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge of the
9 Superior Court that it agrees with Finding No. _____ as well as Recommendation No. _____
10 of the 2008-2009 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled “TRUANTS CAN BE ‘JOYFUL LEARNERS,’
11 TOO: Unless Racism, Classism and/or Systematic Ineffectiveness Prevent Future Progress”;
12 and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that it disagrees wholly
14 or partially with Finding No. _____ as well as Recommendation No. _____, for reasons as
15 follows _____; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to cause the
17 implementation of accepted findings and recommendations through his/her department heads
18 and through the development of the annual budget.