

**From:** [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Include in the File No. 250499: SFUSD Response to File 250499 Resolution Supporting Student Journalism; Affirming the Importance of Free Press; and Upholding Free Speech  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 4:10:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [SFUSD Response to 250499 Resolution Supporting Student Journalism.pdf](#)

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Dear Clerk Staff,

Please include this letter in File No. 250499.

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**From:** Pang, Hong Mei <pangh@sfusd.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:02 AM  
**To:** Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; Sherrill, Stephen (BOS) <Stephen.Sherrill@sfgov.org>; Sauter, Danny (BOS) <Danny.Sauter@sfgov.org>; Engardio, Joel (BOS) <joel.engardio@sfgov.org>; Mahmood, Bilal (BOS) <bilal.mahmood@sfgov.org>; Dorsey, Matt (BOS) <matt.dorsey@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Fielder, Jackie (BOS) <Jackie.Fielder@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Chen, Chyanne (BOS) <Chyanne.Chen@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Su, Maria (USD) <mariasu@sfusd.edu>; Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** SFUSD Response to File 250499 Resolution Supporting Student Journalism; Affirming the Importance of Free Press; and Upholding Free Speech

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Dear Hon. President Mandelman and San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to submit SFUSD's response to File 250499 Resolution Supporting Student Journalism; Affirming the Importance of Free Press; and Upholding Free Speech.

Please see attached. We look forward to continued engagement on this matter, and greatly appreciate your partnership in service of SFUSD students, staff, and families.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Hong Mei

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**Hong Mei Pang** 馮弘美 (*she/her/hers*)  
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To: The Honorable San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
President Rafael Mandelman  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Stephen Sherrill  
Supervisor Danny Sauter  
Supervisor Joel Engardio  
Supervisor Bilal Mahmood  
Supervisor Matt Dorsey  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Jackie Fielder  
Supervisor Shamann Walton  
Supervisor Chyanne Chen

Re: File 250499 Resolution Supporting Student Journalism; Affirming the Importance of Free Press; and Upholding Free Speech

Date: May 13, 2025

Dear President Rafael Mandelman and San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

At SFUSD, we are committed to providing a rigorous educational experience that prepares our students for college and career. In our classrooms and across a multitude of programs, we want SFUSD students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies that contribute to their ability to be effective citizens in their community. This applies to our high school journalism programs, at both Lowell and Lincoln High School.

In line with our commitment, thank you for the Resolution Supporting Student Journalism; Affirming the Importance of Free Press; and Upholding Free Speech.

Recent events at Lowell High School merit our attention, and I want to assure you that SFUSD is taking these concerns very seriously. We commend our students for their leadership and for elevating their concerns. SFUSD is committed to providing safe learning environments for every student to thrive in all of our schools.

Throughout the San Francisco Unified School District, we hold our students' freedom of expression in the highest regard. We are proud to support their First Amendment rights, particularly through our journalism program. This program not only emphasizes the essential

role journalism plays in our society, but also instills in students a strong understanding of responsible communication practices.

Lowell has a long-standing journalism program, and we remain deeply committed to offering high-quality instruction in this important discipline. Each academic year, adjustments to teacher assignments are made to ensure we are providing the most effective support for our students' educational experiences.

As is the case across all high schools in our district, the teacher assignment process does not always result in every educator receiving their preferred placement. The recent decision to assign a new teacher to lead our journalism program was made with the intent of continuing to provide the best possible support for our students. This change is not a reflection on the content produced under the current teacher's leadership, nor is it related to any form of censorship, disciplinary action, or retaliation.

We are pleased to welcome a new instructor with experience teaching journalism at the collegiate level, and we are confident that this individual will offer valuable insights and expertise to our students. We view this transition as an opportunity to provide fresh instructional leadership and foster continued growth within the program.

We also want to express our sincere appreciation for the dedication and contributions of the current and previous journalism advisors. As we prepare our students to become the next generation of leaders, we will continue to encourage them to make their voices heard, address critical issues, and advocate for a more just and equitable society.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and educational mission.

Sincerely,

Hong Mei Pang  
Head of Communications and Governance  
SFUSD

CC:

Dr. Maria Su, SFUSD Superintendent  
Angela Cavillo, Clerk of the Board