

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vincent C. Matthews, Ed.D., Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District
Ingrid Mezquita, Director, Office of Early Care and Education
Maria Su, Director, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families

FROM: Lisa Lew, Legislative Clerk
Board of Supervisors

DATE: December 18, 2020

SUBJECT: SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - December 22, 2020 - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HEARING

The Board of Supervisors has received the following hearing request for a Resolution that was introduced by Supervisor Fewer on December 8, 2020:

File No. 201410

Hearing of the Board of Supervisors sitting as a Committee of the Whole on December 22, 2020, to hold a public hearing to consider the Resolution urging the San Francisco Unified School District to develop a comprehensive plan for the safe return to in-person learning in accordance with public health guidelines; scheduled pursuant to a motion approved at the Board of Supervisors meeting of December 15, 2020.

File No. 201368

Resolution urging the San Francisco Unified School District to develop a comprehensive plan for the safe return to in-person learning in accordance with public health guidelines.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: bos.legislation@sfgov.org.

c: Viva Mogi, San Francisco Unified School District
Esther Casco, San Francisco Unified School District
Mele Lau Smith, San Francisco Unified School District
Maya Castleman, Office of Early Care and Education

1 [Urging a Comprehensive Return to School Plan]

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3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Unified School District to develop a**
4 **comprehensive plan for the safe return to in-person learning in accordance with public**
5 **health guidelines.**

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7 WHEREAS, As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, San Francisco public
8 schools have been closed since March 16, 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) serves nearly 54,000
10 students across 128 school sites, more than half of whom qualify for federal free or reduced-
11 cost lunch benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, Due to constraints within the current distance learning framework,
13 elementary age children in San Francisco public schools are receiving around one third of the
14 instructional hours as compared to when they attended school in-person; and

15 WHEREAS, Educators have had worked tirelessly to bridge learning divides and adapt
16 to the complexities of delivering curriculum through distance-learning; and

17 WHEREAS, SFUSD students are struggling academically, emotionally, and physically,
18 with increasing rates of anxiety and obesity, and

19 WHEREAS, A group of San Francisco pediatricians warned in an editorial that every
20 month of inadequate education can have cumulative and long-term health consequences for a
21 child and will widen racial inequities; and

22 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Officer authorized schools for in-person
23 learning, on a rolling basis with approved safety plans on September 21, 2020; and

24 WHEREAS, All San Francisco schools must meet the minimum standards defined in
25 both state guidance and SFPD's health directive on school reopening before resuming in-

1 person learning, including providing detailed plans on how they will ensure adequate testing
2 and contact tracing for their staff and students; and

3 WHEREAS, There is strong consensus amongst public health experts, including Dr.
4 Fauci and CDC Director Redfield, that schools can operate in person learning in a safe and
5 responsible way, and opening schools should be the highest priority for any jurisdiction; and

6 WHEREAS, New recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control place high
7 priority on keeping schools open, from kindergarten through 12th grade, saying schools
8 should be both “the last settings to close” and “the first to reopen” because of the critical role
9 they play in providing meals and support services to children; and

10 WHEREAS, CDC guidance is clear that school closures take a disproportionate toll on
11 low-income families; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Education passed a resolution directing the
13 Superintendent to begin reopening in person instruction and services for preschool students,
14 elementary grade students with moderate to severe disabilities, and all other students in
15 grades TK-1 including students in general education no later than January 25, 2021, and to
16 provide a schedule for full elementary reopening by December 8th, 2020; and

17 WHEREAS, The District’s Return Plan 2020-2021 would only return a few thousand
18 children to schools by March 22, 2021, more than an entire year after schools closed; and

19 WHEREAS, The District’s Return Plan does not include crucial return to school
20 timetable for the majority of elementary schools students; and

21 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is considering a resolution (File
22 No. 201335) urging Governor Gavin Newsom and state health officials to prioritize teachers
23 as essential workers, making them eligible for the first phase of coronavirus vaccines in early
24 2021; and

25

1 WHEREAS, On December 7, Assemblymember Phil Ting introduced AB10 requiring
2 public schools to reopen under most circumstances during the pandemic when infection rates
3 drop; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
5 Unified School District to revise the Return to School Plan in accordance with the public health
6 urgency to return children to in-person learning; and be it; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San
8 Francisco Unified School District to revise the Return to School Plan in accordance with the
9 public health urgency to return children to in-person learning; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges SFUSD
11 leaders in collaboration with educators to immediately outline any needs - financial, technical,
12 staffing, operations, facility, safety, public health, training or others - that could be met through
13 public, private, philanthropic or City support; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
15 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the San Francisco Unified School District Board
16 of Education and the Superintendent.

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