

1 [Opposing the Closure to John Swett Alternative School]

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3 **Resolution opposing San Francisco's Board of Education's decision to close the John**  
4 **Swett Alternative School.**

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6 WHEREAS The San Francisco Board of Education (Board of Education) voted at its  
7 January 19, 2006 special meeting to close, merge or relocate 13 San Francisco public  
8 schools. The Board voted specifically to close John Swett and merge it into John Muir  
9 Elementary School and,

10 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisor's Government Audit and Oversight Committee  
11 held a hearing on January 23, 2006 on the school closures in general. A great deal of  
12 testimony was focused on the decision to close/merge John Swett Alternative School (John  
13 Swett). The Committee was left with unanswered questions as to why John Swett was closed;  
14 and,

15 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) publicized and  
16 presented to the Board of Education a list of criteria for school closures, mergers and  
17 relocations, John Swett did not meet several of the criteria listed; and

18 WHEREAS, according to SFUSD data  
19 (<http://portal.sfusd.edu/data/home/EnrollmentandCapacity.pdf>) John Swett's enrollment (229)  
20 and capacity (81%) exceed that of many schools not on the closure list; and,

21 WHEREAS, it is rumored that the John Swett building was listed as potential office  
22 space for the SFUSD in a presentation to the Board of Education's Building'; and,

23 WHEREAS, the potential use for the space was omitted from later materials discussing  
24 the potential lease/rent revenues from the John Swett Site; and

1           WHEREAS, at the January 23, 2006 Board of Supervisor's Government Audit and  
2 Oversight Committee, when asked to make a commitment that the SFUSD would not use the  
3 John Swett building as administrative space, Director of Development, Matthew Kelleman  
4 responded, " I can't Make that commitment."; and,

5           WHEREAS, the Westerrn Addition has been the site of several recent homicides. It is  
6 supposed that John Swett is located in neutral territory as far as organized gangs are  
7 concerned, and is therefor safe for children who attend the school; and,

8           WHEREAS, John Swett has 43.2% African American and 21.1% Latino students and  
9 John Muir's enrollment is 34.2% African American and 53.2% Latino Students, the merging of  
10 the two schools do not help address the issues of desegregation efforts in San Francisco;  
11 and,

12           WHEREAS, John Swett has a strong arts program, for which Proposition H funds  
13 served as seed money; and,

14           WHEREAS, the John Swett school community also raised more than \$200,000 for its  
15 art program from private funders. With that grant money, it has trained teachers and staff to  
16 carry on the arts program without funture funding source; and

17           WHEREAS, John Swett has a strong San Fancisco School Volunteers Allies for  
18 Education partnership (<http://www.sfsv.org/programs.html>) with the California Public Utilities  
19 Commission (CPUC). CPUS employees have donated thousands of hours and raised  
20 thousands of dollars for John Swett; and

21           BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Unified  
22 School District to cease and desist from any plans of transferring their administrative offices  
23 to John Swett Alternative as a reason for dislocating the John Swett school population to  
24 John Muir Elementary; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests  
2 the Unified School District and the Board of Education halt the Swett-Muir merger and  
3 reconsider a more measured plan that supports the present retention of John Swett  
4 Alternative and addresses a more effective use of John Muir Elementary without displacing  
5 said school population.

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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Resolution

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**File Number:** 060123

**Date Passed:**

Resolution opposing San Francisco's Board of Education's decision to close the John Swett Alternative School.

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January 31, 2006 Board of Supervisors — CONTINUED

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell,  
Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval  
Absent: 1 - McGoldrick

February 7, 2006 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin,  
Sandoval  
Noes: 1 - Elsbernd  
Absent: 1 - Alioto-Pier

File No. 060123

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on February 7, 2006 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

FEB 17 2006

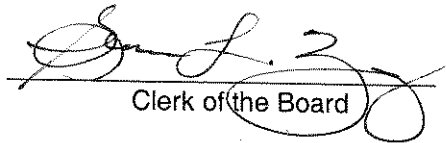
Date Approved



Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date: February 17, 2006

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.



Clerk of the Board

File No.  
060123

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