

1 [Urging San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Arlene Ackerman to forego the  
2 provision in her current contract for a \$375,000 severance package]

3 **Resolution urging San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Arlene**  
4 **Ackerman to forego the provision in her current contract for a \$375,000 severance**  
5 **package.**

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7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) faced a \$22.5 million  
8 budget deficit for the 2005-06 school year that resulted in teacher layoffs, the closure of five  
9 schools and the anticipation of future school closures; and,

10 WHEREAS, The SFUSD's declining enrollment numbers will cause equally damaging  
11 budget deficits in future school years; and,

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 53 percent of the 57,000 students in the SFUSD live in low-  
13 income households that qualify them for free or reduced-price lunches; and,

14 WHEREAS, Many SFUSD schools continue to under-perform dramatically, with Balboa  
15 High School students, for example, scoring in the 10th percentile on the English portion of the  
16 2004-05 California Standards Test; and,

17 WHEREAS, Despite recent improvements, only 45 percent of SFUSD students perform  
18 at grade level in English and only 46 percent do so in math; and,

19 WHEREAS, Superintendent Ackerman's recent contract includes a provision that  
20 would give her a \$375,000 severance package if she leaves the SFUSD because of  
21 "compatibility" issues with the Board of Education; and,

22 WHEREAS, Superintendent Ackerman's contract also included a \$26,000 raise to her  
23 annual salary and a raise in her monthly housing allowance from \$1,200 to \$2,000; and,

24 WHEREAS, Superintendent Ackerman's annual salary is \$250,000, which is 30  
25 percent higher than the average salary for a superintendent in California; and,

1           WHEREAS, Superintendent Ackerman announced her resignation and invoked the  
2 “compatibility clause” in her contract on September 6, 2005; and,

3           WHEREAS, The beginning salary for a teacher in the SFUSD ranges from \$39,653 to  
4 \$41,219; and,

5           WHEREAS, Superintendent Ackerman’s \$375,000 severance package could pay for  
6 almost 10 teachers for one school year; and,

7           WHEREAS, A lawsuit filed by a student, parent, teacher and a taxpayer alleged that  
8 Superintendent Ackerman’s contract was approved by the Board of Education in violation of  
9 the State’s Education Code; and,

10           WHEREAS, A District parent and Parent Advocate circulated a petition signed by  
11 concerned parents asking Superintendent Ackerman to put the District’s children first by  
12 rejecting the \$375,000 severance package; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges Superintendent Arlene  
14 Ackerman to forego the \$375,000 severance package in her current contract; and be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send a copy  
16 of this resolution to the Board of Education, San Francisco Unified School District, 555  
17 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102; and be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send a copy  
19 of this resolution to Dr. Arlene Ackerman, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School  
20 District, 555 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102.

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