

BOARD of SUPERVISORS




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MEMORANDUM

Date: June 3, 2025

To: Maria Su, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District
Judson Steele, Executive Assistant, San Francisco Board of Education

From:  Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Board of Supervisors

Subject: Supporting Student Journalism and Upholding Free Speech (File No. 250499)

On May 13, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 245-25, sponsored by Supervisor Myrna Melgar (File No. 250499, Supporting Student Journalism and Upholding Free Speech) enacted May 23, 2025.

Please find the attached courtesy copy of the Resolution for your office's information and consideration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184.

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Myrna Melgar, Joel Engardio, Jackie Fielder, Chyanne Chen, Stephen Sherrill, Danny Sauter, Bilal Mahmood, Shamann Walton, Matt Dorsey
Adam Thongsavat, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office
Aly Bonde, Policy Director, Mayor's Office
Laura Melgarejo, Policy Communications Coordinator, SF Unified School District
Chris Armentrout, Director of Policy and Planning, SF Unified School District
Marin Trujillo, Head of Staff, SF Unified School District
Mele Lau Smith, SF Unified School District
Hong Mei Pang, SF Unified School District

1 [Supporting Student Journalism and Upholding Free Speech]

2
3 **Resolution supporting student journalism; affirming the importance of free press; and**
4 **upholding free speech.**

5
6 WHEREAS, California adopted several laws, particularly in California Education Code,
7 Section 48907 to protect student journalists at all levels of education in public and private
8 schools and explicitly states that they cannot be censored or penalized; and

9
10 WHEREAS, In October 2024, *The Lowell*, a student publication at Lowell High School,
11 published an article titled "*Invasive and Inappropriate*" about incidents of alleged verbal
12 harassment and inappropriate behavior by teachers; and

13
14 WHEREAS, As described in The San Francisco Chronicle, the student editors felt
15 intimidated when Lowell High School administrators lectured them in a meeting and requested
16 advance review of future publications; and

17
18 WHEREAS, Student journalists at Lowell High School say they feel a chilling effect
19 after it was shared that the teacher who advises the student newspaper was assigned to a
20 new role; and

21
22 WHEREAS, The student body at Lowell High School has been actively engaged on
23 issues regarding verbal harassment, sexual harassment and assault over the years; and

24
25 WHEREAS, Many San Francisco public high schools have student-run news sites,
provides a platform for expression, professional development for budding journalists,
engagement on news and topics, and a way to archive records; and

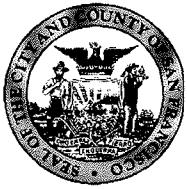
1 WHEREAS, Lincoln High School's student newspaper, *The Lincoln Log*, which
2 publishes stories that question school district policies as an example of how a robust student
3 publication can thrive under the First Amendment; and

4 WHEREAS, Lowell High School and Lincoln High School are the only two public high
5 school newspapers in San Francisco that publishes both a print and online edition; and we
6 must protect them and encourage more schools to have student publications; now, therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 stands in support of student journalists, the right to free speech, and the importance of media
10 in elevating issues and exposing injustice; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages the San Francisco
12 Unified School District to uphold its commitment to students' right to free speech; and to
13 commit to training administrators and educators to ensure that student journalism is being
14 encouraged; and

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
16 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the members of the San Francisco School
17 Board and Superintendent Maria Su.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

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

File Number: 250499

Date Passed: May 13, 2025


Resolution supporting student journalism; affirming the importance of free press; and upholding free speech.

May 13, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter,
Sherrill and Walton
Excused: 1 - Mandelman

File No. 250499

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/13/2025 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board


Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

05/23/2025

Date Approved

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, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

05/23/2025

Date