

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Esther Casco, Secretary, San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education
Vincent C. Matthews, Ed.D., Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District
Shakirah Simley, Director, Office of Racial Equity

FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk,
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

DATE: February 10, 2021

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION MATTER INTRODUCED

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following resolution, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on February 2, 2021:

File No. 210125

Resolution urging the San Francisco Board of Education (BOE) and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) administration to accept City support to prioritize safely re-opening schools, including but not limited to funding, staffing, convening, and negotiating resources; and urging the BOE to partner with the City on an inclusive, community-led process to consider renaming of public facilities, including schools.

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.

C: Office of Chair Mar
Office of Supervisor Peskin
Viva Mogi, San Francisco Unified School District

1 [Urging the San Francisco Board of Education and SFUSD Administration to Accept City
2 Support to Prioritize Safely Re-Opening Schools]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Board of Education (BOE) and San Francisco**
4 **Unified School District (SFUSD) administration to accept City support to prioritize**
5 **safely re-opening schools, including but not limited to funding, staffing, convening,**
6 **and negotiating resources; and urging the BOE to partner with the City on an inclusive,**
7 **community-led process to consider renaming of public facilities, including schools.**

8
9 WHEREAS, The State of California has indicated a desire to resource local
10 jurisdictions working to safely re-open schools, such as Assembly Bill 10 (Ting) to allow
11 schools in Red, Orange or Yellow tiers to open safely under state and county health orders
12 starting March 1, 2021, with clear deadlines informed by scientific data with flexibility for
13 counties to determine which school re-opening model fits best with facilities and workforce
14 needs; and California’s Governor has proposed \$2 billion in state funding to provide up to
15 \$750 per student for a safe return to in-person learning; and

16 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has continually demonstrated its
17 commitment to supporting students, families, and teachers and safely re-opening schools
18 since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing emergency monetary
19 relief on top of its annual funding support, expanding mental health resources to dedicate
20 Mobile Response Teams to students, dedicating Disaster Service Workers to staffing
21 Community Learning Hubs, providing technical support and infrastructure assessments for
22 school sites, and securing independent contracts to assess and upgrade school site
23 ventilation; and

24 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors (BOS) of the City and County of San Francisco
25 are on record with their support for safely re-opening schools with a science-based plan, as

1 evidenced by the unanimous adoption of Resolution No. 594-20, (on file with the Clerk of the
2 Board of Supervisors in File No. 201368), which is hereby declared to be a part of this
3 resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) recently released its
5 student math and reading proficiency rates for the fall 2020 semester and analysis of overall
6 student learning loss throughout Distance Learning, which clearly shows that students of color
7 are disproportionately struggling across all areas of academic and social development, with
8 Black and Latino students also more likely to be absent from class at least 60% of the time;
9 and SFUSD surveys indicate that all students are struggling with increased mental and
10 emotional health problems; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco Board of Education (BOE) Resolution No. 184-10A1
12 (Sanchez, Cook, Haney), was adopted on May 22, 2018, setting forth a process for a
13 volunteer blue ribbon panel of “exceptional people” to “offer findings and recommendations,
14 through the Superintendent of Schools to the BOE regarding the potential renaming of
15 SFUSD schools”, and while said Resolution does not lay out specific criteria for said blue
16 ribbon panel to weigh in their decision-making, and said panel does not include historians nor
17 school communities themselves, nor does it include resource allocations to ensure the
18 success of the panel’s work product; and

19 WHEREAS, The BOE has availed itself on numerous occasions of Board Policy 7310,
20 which lays out a process for school communities to petition for and change the name of
21 schools, including but not limited to Malcolm X Academy (formerly Sir Francis Drake
22 Elementary School), Cesar Chavez Elementary School (formerly Hawthorne Elementary
23 School), and June Jordan School for Equity (formerly Luther Burbank Middle School) among
24 many others; and

25

1 WHEREAS, On January 26, 2021, the BOE adopted Resolution No. 211-12A1
2 (Sanchez), amending Resolution 184-10A1 with a commitment to rename 46 schools
3 recommended by the volunteer blue ribbon panel, with new names to be reviewed by the
4 same panel by April 19, 2021, at which point the panel will submit final recommendations for
5 new names to the Board of Education; and

6 WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco’s recent creation of the Office of Racial Equity,
7 established via Ordinance No. 188-19 on August 9, 2019, and co-sponsored by all eleven
8 members of the BOS, was a significant step toward advancing the City’s commitment to racial
9 equity and social justice across every single Department and supporting more equitable policy
10 processes by engaging and empowering underrepresented community voices; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor Breed has initiated a citywide process to consider what monuments
12 should be removed and/or replaced, staffed by the San Francisco Arts Commission, the
13 Human Rights Commission and the Recreation and Parks Department, there now exists an
14 opportunity to have a wider citywide community-led discussion about San Francisco values
15 and the appropriate memorializing of individuals and events; and

16 WHEREAS, Removing the names of slaveholders and racist colonizers from public
17 facilities is a moral mandate that the City and County of San Francisco has embraced from
18 stripping names from public streets and plazas to removing offensive and degrading public
19 monuments; and

20 WHEREAS, The renaming process undertaken by the SFUSD blue ribbon panel was
21 not only flawed, as reported by numerous press outlets, but also lacked appropriate nuanced
22 discourse, inclusive input, and most importantly, a pedagogical underpinning to use this
23 undertaking as “a teachable moment” for our students; and said process ultimately lacked the
24 adequate staffing support and resources to ensure its success; and

25

1 WHEREAS, The separate jurisdictional powers of the State-regulated SFUSD and the
2 Chartered City and County of San Francisco notwithstanding, SFUSD students and their
3 families are constituents and charges of the City, and said constituents have transmitted
4 frustrated requests for effective, practical and urgent leadership from the City's elected
5 officials to respond to the most pressing school community needs during the COVID-19
6 pandemic; and

7 RESOLVED, That the BOS once again urges the BOE and SFUSD administration to
8 prioritize safely reopening schools as soon as reasonably possible and to work collaboratively
9 with City leadership to further this critical goal; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of San Francisco pledges to continue its ongoing
11 support with resources, including but not limited to staffing and technical support convening
12 productive labor negotiations to further the City's goal of reopening schools as soon as it is
13 safe to do so; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the BOS urges the BOE to pause it's decision to
15 rename 44 San Francisco schools out of the 46 recommended by the SFUSD blue ribbon
16 panel and consider amending the BOE's process to utilize City resources within a larger
17 citywide process to consider criteria and next steps on San Francisco monuments and
18 renaming of public facilities, pursuant to inclusive public participation; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the BOS remains committed to racial equity and social
20 justice in practice, not just in theory, and will support the BOE's work to ensure that this
21 discourse and implementation happens in the classroom through updated curriculum as soon
22 as the schools are re-opened; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the BOS directs the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to
24 transmit this Resolution to the BOE and SFUSD Superintendent upon final passage.

25

Second Reading

Subject: Resolution No. 211-12A1

Amendment to Resolution No. 184-10A1, In Support of a Formal Process in the Renaming of San Francisco Unified School District Schools (adopted May 22, 2018)

- Commissioner Mark Sanchez

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Board of Education adopted Resolution No. 184-10A1, *In Support of a Formal Process in the Renaming of San Francisco Unified School District Schools* on May 22, 2018, committing the District to changing names of schools named for historical figures who engaged in the subjugation and enslavement of human beings; or who oppressed women, inhibiting societal progress; or whose actions led to genocide; or who otherwise significantly diminished the opportunities of those amongst us to the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS: A blue ribbon panel of community leaders was formed and has met for more than one year to examine school names and set up a process for identifying names for change; and

WHEREAS: The panel has forwarded the names of more than 40 school sites for potential renaming to District leadership, with an end date of April 19, 2021 for suggested new names to be reviewed by the panel, at which time the panel will make its final recommendations for new names to the Board of Education.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education review and sanction the panel's list of school names for potential renaming.

1/12/21

Subject: Resolution No. 184-10A1

In Support of a Formal Process in the Renaming of San Francisco Unified School District Schools

- Commissioners Mark Sanchez, Stevon Cook, and Matt Haney

WHEREAS: SFUSD schools have been, are, and shall continue to be the source of great and enduring pride to the residents of the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS: Students, educators, school staff, and families are deeply invested and dedicated to the schools at which they attend, work at, or send their children to for a great education, as well as to all schools at large, making our network of public schools an integral part of our social fabric, and making our big city in many ways more accessible and embracing of our diverse community; and

WHEREAS: The renaming of SFUSD schools are the result of school communities petitioning the SF Board of Education, at times citing the need to have our academic institutions' names not only more accurately reflect current attitudes and values, but also, at times, to provide hard won voice and agency to those in our community who have been historically underserved, held down, subjugated, and the focus of concerted efforts to deny life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS: Efforts to rename schools, albeit for some of the reasons and intentions stated above, have and predictably and understandably will encounter opposition by some community members for a host of reasons, not least of them the attachment of a school's name to a beloved educational institution and the memories of events, classmates, teachers, and school leaders, and because the name of a school is oftentimes closely related to the cultural identity of current and former students; and

WHEREAS: Within at least the last three decades, SFUSD has proudly, confidently and with the advocacy and support of the community renamed a long list of schools, including, but not limited to:

Malcolm X Academy (formerly Sir Francis Drake Elementary School)
Rosa Parks (formerly Raphael Weill Elementary School)
Chinese Immersion School (formerly DeAvila Elementary School)
Burl Tolar, at the Benjamin Franklin Campus (formerly Benjamin Franklin Middle School)
Cesar Chavez (formerly Hawthorne Elementary School)
Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy (formerly Douglass Elementary School)
Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, at the McAteer Campus (formerly McAteer High School)
Willie L. Brown (formerly 21st Century Middle School)
Phillip and Sala Burton High School (formerly Woodrow Wilson High School)
Dianne Feinstein Elementary School (formerly Parkside Elementary School)
Enola Maxwell (formerly Potrero Hill Middle School)
June Jordan (formerly Luther Burbank Middle School)
Gordon J. Lau (formerly Commodore Stockton Elementary School)
Yick Wo (formerly Sarah B. Cooper Elementary School)
Leola M. Havard Early Education School (formerly Burnett Child Development Center); and

WHEREAS: Of note, and illustrative of the need to consider and reflect upon the appropriateness of those who have been honored with a school in their names, Sir Francis Drake Elementary School, attended predominantly by African American students, was renamed Malcolm X Academy in 1994, due to a compelling and sustained effort by the African American school community and its allies who called to attention and amplified the fact that Drake was a slave trader; and

WHEREAS: Reflecting on the historical past and the appropriateness of some cultural icons is being debated across the nation, notably concerning the confederacy's flag, iconography, and statues, as well as the names of revered institutions, including public schools; and many communities are blazing a path toward a more relevant and culturally responsive approach to addressing historical wrongs; for example, the City of New Orleans removed the Robert E. Lee and other confederate statues in May of 2017; similarly, in San Francisco, city officials recently decided to remove a controversial monument that depicts a Native American man sitting at the feet of a Mexican vaquero and Franciscan monk.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Board of Education finds it necessary to engage the larger San Francisco community in a sustained discussion regarding public school names, their relevance, and the appropriateness of schools named for historical figures who engaged in the subjugation and enslavement of human beings; or who oppressed women, inhibiting societal progress; or whose actions led to genocide; or who otherwise significantly diminished the opportunities of those amongst us to the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That said process shall be led by a blue-ribbon panel*, whose membership shall be established by the Superintendent of Schools and ratified by the San Francisco Board of Education no later than the beginning of the 2018-19 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That said blue-ribbon panel shall offer findings and recommendations, through the Superintendent of Schools to the San Francisco Board of Education regarding the potential renaming of SFUSD schools as soon as June, 2019, but no later than June, 2020, at which time the advising panel shall be dissolved; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: School communities interested in undergoing a process to change the school name for reasons unrelated to the purposes of this Resolution should reference and follow Board Policy (7310) for instructions on how to go about that process.

*(*A blue-ribbon panel is a group of exceptional people appointed to investigate, study or analyze a given question. Blue-ribbon panels generally have a degree of independence from political influence or other authority, and such panels usually have no direct authority of their own. Their value comes from their ability to use their expertise to issue findings or recommendations which can then be used by those with decision-making power to act.)*

- Referred by order of the Chair on 4/10/18 to a meeting of Committee of the Whole
- Taken up at the Committee of the Whole meeting of 5/15/18. Forwarded to the 5/22/18 Board meeting for action.

4/10/18

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor [] inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Reactivate File No. []
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Supervisor Peskin

Subject:

[Urging the San Francisco Board of Education and SFUSD Administration to Accept City Support to Prioritize Safely Re-Opening Schools]

The text is listed:

Resolution urging the San Francisco Board of Education (BOE) and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Administration to accept city support to prioritize safely re-opening schools, including but not limited to funding, staffing, convening, and negotiating resources; and urging the BOE to partner with the City on an inclusive, community-led process to consider renaming of public facilities, including schools.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: []

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