



AARON PESKIN

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 25, 2020 **[Updated: October 22, 2020]**

TO: Maria Su, Director, Dept of Children, Youth & their Families (DCYF)
Phil Ginsburg, Director, Recreation & Parks Department (RPD)

FROM: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

CC: Sunny Angulo, District 3 Chief of Staff
Calvin Yan, District 3 Legislative Aide
Dori Caminong, Senior Community Development Specialist, DCYF

SUBJECT: Follow-up on District 3 Community Learning Hub Discussion

Directors Su and Ginsburg:

Thank you again for taking time to speak with my office and I last month on how we can work to optimize equity, access and city resources for our District 3 Community Learning Hubs. Particularly now with the knowledge that our public schools will not be opening up before the end of the year, the work that your Departments are spearheading is critical and deeply appreciated. I wanted to follow up on these questions that my office compiled from our District 3 working group and transmitted to you on September 25th, updated in red with new questions based on the plans for Phase 2 beginning next week.

PARENT ACCESS TO ENROLLMENT & STUDENT PRIORITIZATION

- **Please clearly explain the outreach and approval process for Hub enrollment and how students most in need of additional in-person support for distance learning are prioritized.** We have been told by DCYF grantees that they were given a list of families at the outset of summer programming that overlap with new fall lists they have been asked to call through, and that they are likely contacts of families already plugged into the DCYF system, though it is not clear if DCYF also cross-referenced the list with actual family data obtained from SFUSD, be it SFUSD's Central Office or individual principals. **Is the program planning on augmenting and adjusting the outreach and enrollment process for Phase 2 of the Community Learning Hubs?**

- **Please clearly detail any non-English and/or ethnic media outreach that has been done to educate parents on the options available to them and how the process works.** How do families find Hub spots in their district? How can CBO's make recommendations and referrals when families call them, particularly those who do not use online reservation and application systems for DCYF or RPD?
- **Neighborhood v. School Site** – Is there a different Hub approval process for families that live locally in a neighborhood versus those that wish to keep their children in a cohort based on their existing school community? CBO's have indicated that although the original Hub process was designed to be local, DCYF is now giving them a choice of recruiting and students from either category. Please clarify the process. **It sounds like at least two of our CBO's will be taking on high school pods 3 days a week, can you clarify the plan for these sites, given existing space constraints?**
- **Please explain the current status of SFUSD communications.** How can the City communicate better directly with District principals, who often have more insight into the needs of their school communities than the SFUSD Administration? Our office continues to receive feedback that these conversations are happening in silos. We would be happy to further convene stakeholders, as necessary.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

- **Please confirm specifics of the additional \$4 million supplemental budget proposal for Hubs.** During budget negotiations, we understood that \$3 million would be set aside for CBO staffing and \$1 million set aside to ensure children received three meals a day. Is this still the Department's thinking? **I know that the changing needs of the Hubs have necessitated changes in the budget thinking – any updates on the funding breakdown would be appreciated, including where there may still be a gap.**
- **Additional full-time staffing.** Is there a process for how CBO's should propose to access the one-time funds or how the funding will be distributed? Some CBO's continue to operate only virtually – will there be priority given to funding CBO efforts that are in person, particularly now that DPH has created a new 2:14 staff:student ratio? Some CBO's have expressed concerns that they are only funded by the Department currently to serve specific age groups but that there is a need to serve additional age groups in their community. What is the Department's thinking on this?
- **Specialized support.** Our immigrant families, particularly those with older children and youths, have asked where they can get in-person tutorial and academic support in language. Many of these families live in affordable housing, either in the Tenderloin or Greater Chinatown. CBO staffers have asked if there are any conversations happening with SFUSD to allow substitute teachers to work with very small co-horts (4-5 students) to ensure they are getting the in-language clarifications they need. One recommendation was to retain one or two tutors for a whole affordable housing complex.
- **Testing.** It is our office's understanding that \$1 million of one-time funds will be allocated for testing at all Hub sites every two weeks. Will testing include children or just staff? Will the testing be on-site or will it be paid time-off to go get tested at a CityTest SF site with a code?

- **Wifi, Misc Facility Support** – We heard from at least one of the Hub’s that DCYF came by to evaluate the wifi capacity. Is this being done at every participating non-profit facility? Is there funding in the budget to help support CBO work to outfit their facilities with wifi in support of Community Learning Hub operations?

PUBLIC SITES

- **Libraries** – Please confirm what Libraries will now be open in District 3 as Hubs, and whether or not they will be staffed by city workers or CBO’s. Please confirm who is responsible for refrigeration and custodial work at Library Hubs, and whether or not CBO’s will access to those resources. **Is North Beach Library now confirmed for one floor of a Community Learning Hub site?**
- **Parks and Playgrounds** – Community stakeholders continue to express concerns around the lack of communication on access to key public park sites, including Joe DiMaggio Playground and recreational areas. Please outline the programming currently operating in District 3 public sites, and specifically what demographics the programming is serving.
- **Public Housing** – Although the Hub program descriptions, including in the media, have placed an emphasis on public housing and SRO residents, we continue to receive feedback that requests to receive City support for Community Learning Hubs on-site for Ping Yuen and North Beach Place students have gone unanswered by the Department. Are there specific issues that our office can help trouble-shoot? We have been in touch with MOHCD and the Department of Technology to ensure that both public housing sites have increased internet capacity, and want to make sure that they are being serviced by the resources recently approved in the budget.
- **SFUSD Outdoor Facilities, Blacktops** – Our office has followed up on your requests to open up outdoor SFUSD facilities for CBO Hub use, particularly given that many are being used on the weekends as Shared Schoolyards. **Can the Shared Schoolyards contract be amended to include select weekdays?** We are hoping you’ve had more success in your regular communication with SFUSD – are there any updates? At a minimum, will the community garden areas at Francisco Middle School be opened up?
- **Performing Arts Spaces, Civic Sites** – We appreciate DCYF’s commitment to working with our office on identifying additional sites. Please let us know what additional non-city owned sites that have recently been cleared to re-open the Department is looking at, and how we can help support these efforts, in the hope of expanding the number of sites that can serve our kids. **With City College Chinatown/North Beach campus reopening for college students, is there still a desire to work to have a bigger site for more Hub pods?**

COMMUNICATION

- **SRO Data Request.** We currently have a pending data request and letter of inquiry in to SFUSD, and hope to have more information soon. **I know that SFUSD presented at the last Joint Select Committee, but we still haven’t received a formal response on the District 3 needs. If you have more information, please let staff know.**

- **Ethnic Educational & Outreach Media** – What work is being done to help educate parents, particularly those in the immigrant/ESL communities, on the safety of Community Learning Hub model, as well as the public health resources that are available to them?
- **City Contacts for Hub Sites** – Please confirm the points of contact for the following sites, and whether or not they are able to join twice monthly stakeholder coordination meetings with CBOS's: Betty Ang Ong Rec Center, Willy "Woo Woo" Playground, Portsmouth Square, Joe DiMaggio Clubhouse, Chinatown Library, North Beach Library.

Thank you for your partnership on these issues.

Aaron