Mayor London Breed, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, SF School Board, College Board, and Community and Labor Groups Announce Endorsement of Schools and Communities First

*Schools & Communities First will reclaim $12 billion every year to ensure that our schools and communities have the resources to educate our kids and support families*

San Francisco - On Tuesday, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously took a stand by adopting Supervisor Gordon Mar’s resolution endorsing Schools and Communities First. The initiative will ensure that we have good schools for our children, healthy families, and safe neighborhoods by closing commercial property tax loopholes for wealthy investors and big corporations and making them pay their fair share. Schools & Communities First does not affect property taxes for homeowners or renters because the initiative exempts all residential property.

“Schools and Communities First will close commercial property tax loopholes on wealthy corporations and investors and reclaim $800 million for SFUSD, City College, and San Francisco public services without affecting residential property,” said Mar. “This influx in revenue will help retain our public school teachers, librarians, and school staff in San Francisco. It will also help us address our city’s affordable housing and mental health needs. That’s why I am so proud to pass my resolution today that puts the City and County of San Francisco on record endorsing Schools and Communities First along with our School Board and College Board.”

"Every day educators are committed to teaching, guiding, and nurturing our students with the expectation that they will grow, develop and positively contribute to our society. Schools and Communities First acknowledges the obstacles that exist and lays out a path to provide a web of support and resources that fills in the gaps and equips our students and communities for the 21st century,” said Susan Solomon, President of United Educators of San Francisco. “We are excited about the prospects and proud to stand in solidarity with the Schools and Communities First coalition to advance justice in our schools and in our communities."
"Everyone at City College is dedicated to helping our students learn new skills and build a brighter future for themselves. But budget challenges and 100 plus vacant positions make it hard for many students to access critical services like priority course registration, meal vouchers, the supplemental textbook assistance program, and more. Programs serving our most vulnerable students, like the Homeless At-Risk Transitional (HART) program, are badly understaffed, while over 2,000 student veterans of the Armed Forces have only two clerical staff to serve them,” said Maria Salazar-Colon, a management assistant at City College. “That’s why it’s critical for California’s students and communities that wealthy corporations start paying their fair share.”

“IFPTE Local 21 is glad to see Gordon Mar’s leadership on this issue because we believe San Francisco residents deserve the best city services,” said Frances Hsieh, a senior policy analyst with the City of San Francisco. “Schools & Communities First will help city workers serve the public by adding over $800 million per year to the City’s revenue.”

"California needs to generate reliable revenue for our schools and communities without taxing individuals and working families and that's exactly what this commonsense initiative will do," said Ben Grieff, campaign director for Evolve California.

"Working people in SF know how important it is to pass Schools and Communities First and make the biggest corporations across California pay their fair share," said SF Rising Director Emily Lee. "Whether it is our partners pushing for full funding for black and brown students, or members fighting to guarantee muni access for all San Franciscans, these resources belong in our communities and we are proud to join elected officials, organized labor, and community organizations in supporting SCF."

Mayor London Breed was present for the announcement and signaled her support for Supervisor Mar’s resolution. “The Schools and Communities First ballot measure will make sure that our schools are strong and our young people have the opportunity to succeed, and will support our efforts here in San Francisco to create a City that is equitable and thriving. I’m committed to supporting this measure and working to get it passed this November, because our City is strong when we put students and communities first.”

The coalition of organizations present at City Hall for the announcement included SF Rising, Evolve California, SEIU Local 1021, United Educators of San Francisco, IFPTE Local 21, Coleman Advocates, ACCE, SF League of Women Voters, Tech Equity Collaborative, California Alliance for Retired Americans, and Close the Gap Coalition.

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