Resolution supporting the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act of 2021 (H.R. 4442), to invest $1.43 trillion to provide green renovations and retrofits to public schools to meet health, accessibility, safety needs, identify and alleviate educational and economic disparities among students, and provide funding for special education services.

WHEREAS, On July 15, 2021, Representative Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) introduced the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) to invest $1.43 trillion over 10 years in public school infrastructure by retrofitting and upgrading school buildings to address climate change, to expand social services for low-income students, and to bring resources to the increasing needs of students with special education needs; and

WHEREAS, Funding for California public schools was decimated after the passage of 1978’s Proposition 13. Prop 13 slashed the tax rate, drying up the funding for education, resulting in decades of cuts to public school infrastructure, staff, and resources; California went from the highest funding per student to among the lowest in the nation, with low-income students suffering the most; and

WHEREAS, Educational consequences from school understaffing and underfunding are exponentially worse across the state that traditionally serve large populations of students of color and their families, who were already facing stark opportunity and opportunity gaps prior to the COVID crisis; and

WHEREAS, The disproportionate health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American families, including higher rates of job loss and COVID-19 infections compounded by limited access to technology and reliable
internet access, have only exacerbated the educational challenges that students of color have had to endure during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes $250 billion in federal Resource Block Grants in funding for high-need schools to hire staff and expand social services and adopt trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and restorative justice practices and partner with local organizations to offer after-school programs; and

WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes $100 million for an Educational Equity Planning Grants Pilot Program to identify and address sources of educational disparities to encourage equitable community development for our students; and

WHEREAS, SFUSD is facing a projected budget deficit spike mostly stemming from an additional $25.4 million in projected special education costs; for the past two years, the San Francisco Unified School District has spent $10 million to $20 million more than it gets from local, state, and federal funding sources; and,

WHEREAS, Both California and the federal government have failed to appropriately fund special education despite a dramatic increase in need for these services, resulting in public schools being legally bound to provide services that they cannot afford; and,

WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes $695 billion to quadruple Title I funding, which provides financial assistance to schools with large numbers of students from low-income families, and increased funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which the Education Department uses to guide and aid special education programs, which will greatly help San Francisco schools pay for much-needed special education programs; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the infrastructure and ventilation challenges by COVID-19 in students and educators returning to the classrooms, San Francisco public schools are facing
the dangers of climate change via increasingly frequent and severe wildfires that threaten the
air quality in classrooms, which requires air ventilators and infrastructure renewal, including
addressing the electrical capacity of older school buildings; and,
WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes $446
billion in Climate Capital Facilities Grants and $40 billion for a Climate Change Resiliency
Program to provide green retrofits for high-need schools, and offer grant funding or no- or low-
interest loans for schools, resources that San Francisco schools badly need; and,
WHEREAS, It is with great urgency that the public education system is properly fund
and invested in, which could have lasting impacts on students including persistent behavioral
and academic challenges, and the longer term impacts on our community include stagnant
social and economic mobility; and
WHEREAS, There is general agreement among parents, educators, school
administrators, that schools are in dire need of more economic resources to better serve
students; and
WHEREAS, Providing more federal funding will help alleviate the budget crises that
public school systems are facing; and
WHEREAS, There is nearly unanimous consensus within the scientific community that
climate change is a real and imminent threat to our collective health and safety, and to the
stability of governments; and
WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools has already been endorsed by
the American Federation of Teachers, Sunrise Movement, EduColor, Alliance for Quality
Education, Justice Democrats, Climate Justice Alliance, Green New Deal Network, People's
Action, Center for Popular Democracy, Global Grassroots Justice Alliance, Democratic
Socialists of America, Working Families Party, Indivisible, Jobs with Justice, Green Latinos,
Future Coalition, March for Our Lives, Friends of the Earth US, Sierra Club, Greenpeace USA,
WHEREAS, Education is an important duty to the younger generation, that have a moral obligation to protect the integrity of the educational institutions by ensuring that they are well resourced and equipped to overcome the current and future challenges presented by the COVID-19 health crisis and rectify past failures to adequately resource institutions, and the passage of the Green New Deal for Public School Act will ensure that public school institutions are properly resource and invested in; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the Green New Deal for Public School Act; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges its local federal elected officials, including the Speaker of the House Pelosi, Senator Diane Feinstein, and Senator Alex Padilla, to champion the renewed investment in education and recovery of our public education system by adding their names as co-sponsors of the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to members of Congress from San Francisco and the United States Senators from California with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this resolution.
Resolution supporting the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act of 2021 (H.R. 4442), to invest $1.43 trillion to provide green renovations and retrofits to public schools to meet health, accessibility, safety needs, identify and alleviate educational and economic disparities among students, and provide funding for special education services.

September 21, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210969

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/21/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

10/1/2021
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 her 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

10/01/2021
Date