

1 [Urging San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent to Reevaluate School Closure
2 Plans]

3 **Resolution urging San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Matt**
4 **Wayne, to reevaluate his plan for citywide school closures and/or mergers and work**
5 **with the California Department of Education on fiscal solvency, including an audit of**
6 **existing budget systems, developing an in-depth benefit and cost saving analysis,**
7 **exploring options before considering school closures or mergers, and supporting**
8 **upcoming revenue measures.**

9
10 WHEREAS, As of the 2024-2025 school year, the San Francisco Unified School
11 District (SFUSD) has approximately 49,560 students across 106 elementary, middle and high
12 school sites, which represents an enrollment decline of more than 7 percent; and a budget of
13 \$1.3 billion with a projected deficit of \$420 million in the next fiscal year; and

14 WHEREAS, In January 2022, the SFUSD launched a new system, EMPower Payroll,
15 to manage their payroll, which was plagued with errors, failed payments, problems with
16 medical coverage, and incorrect pension investments for over two years; and the District
17 spent over \$34 million trying to unsuccessfully fix the system, before abandoning EMPower
18 and investing another \$5.4 million for a new system earlier this year; and

19 WHEREAS, In August 2023, the SFUSD began the Resource Alignment Initiative, a
20 fiscal roadmap to respond to declining student enrollment, declining revenue, and staffing and
21 infrastructure challenges; and

22 WHEREAS, An audit by the California Department of Education (CDE) fiscal monitors
23 found that SFUSD's history of budget inaccuracies, lack of training for staff, and fallout from
24 the problematic payroll system contributed to its financial insolvency, which would necessitate
25 employee layoffs, school closures, and potential state receivership in order to avoid

1 bankruptcy; and

2 WHEREAS, On May 3, 2024, the CDE notified the SFUSD that they revised their
3 certification of the SFUSD's March budget report from 'Qualified' to 'Negative,' expressing
4 concern that the district would not meet its financial obligations, and appointing fiscal advisors
5 to oversee and engage in financial operations; and

6 WHEREAS, On May 14, 2024, the SFUSD Board of Education approved a \$790 million
7 bond measure for the November 5, 2024, ballot to raise necessary revenue to renovate and
8 upgrade critical SFUSD facilities and infrastructure; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 3, 2024, as part of the Resource Alignment Initiative,
10 Superintendent Wayne announced that on September 18, 2024, the SFUSD would announce
11 a list of schools recommended for closure, merger, and/or co-location for the 2025-2026
12 school year; that plan would need to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Education in
13 mid-December; and, if approved, lead to closures at the end of the academic year; and

14 WHEREAS, On September 15, 2024, Superintendent Wayne announced a delay of
15 this announcement around school closures, mergers, and/or co-locations until October and
16 additionally stated that the goal of school closures was not to save the District money; and

17 WHEREAS, On September 20, 2024, former San Francisco School Board President
18 Lainie Motamedi, who had resigned earlier in the month, confirmed to local news that her
19 resignation "directly related to failures in the superintendent's leadership and deep dysfunction
20 in the district;" and

21 WHEREAS, On September 22, 2024, current San Francisco School Board President
22 Matt Alexander called an emergency closed session meeting of the SFUSD Board of
23 Education to respond to concerns about proposed school closures, financial outlook, and
24 ongoing operational concerns, ultimately deciding to continue to work with Superintendent
25 Wayne to "chart a path forward;" and

1 WHEREAS, The Superintendent and his administration has continued to face
2 community concerns about the lack of planning and transparency around their decision
3 making processes and the Resource Alignment Initiative, inclusive community engagement,
4 and a fiscal analysis of the comprehensive impact of the actions being considered to close
5 their budget gap; and

6 WHEREAS, If any potential school closures and/or mergers are not intended as a cost
7 saving measure but will cause considerable community disruption and, in fact, will represent
8 negligible savings and actually cost money to implement, then they should be considered as a
9 last resort; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
11 Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Matt Wayne, to reevaluate his plan for citywide
12 school closures and/or mergers and work with the California Department of Education to avoid
13 state receivership and improve fiscal solvency, including an audit of existing budget systems,
14 developing an in-depth benefit and cost saving analysis, exploring options before considering
15 school closures and/or mergers, and supporting upcoming revenue measures.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

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

File Number: 240938

Date Passed: October 01, 2024

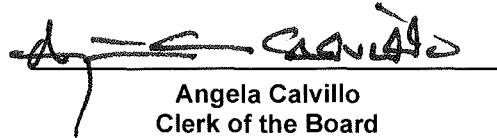
Resolution urging San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Matt Wayne, to reevaluate his plan for citywide school closures and/or mergers and work with the California Department of Education on fiscal solvency, including an audit of existing budget systems, developing an in-depth benefit and cost saving analysis, exploring options before considering school closures or mergers, and supporting upcoming revenue measures.

October 01, 2024 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton
Excused: 1 - Melgar

File No. 240938

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/1/2024 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

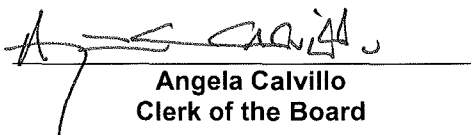
Unsigned

10/11/2024

London N. Breed
Mayor

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

10/11/2024

Date