[Condemning Recent Attacks on Board of Education Members]

Resolution condemning the recent attacks on San Francisco Board of Education Members and elected leaders after a vote temporarily ending Lowell High School's merit-based admission process.

WHEREAS, On Tuesday October 20th, the San Francisco Board of Education (SFBE) Members unanimously voted to temporarily end the merit-based admission process at Lowell High School; and

WHEREAS, The temporary change to Lowell High Schools admission process was in response to the impacts of COVID-19 which lead San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to use a pass/fail system compromising the high school's regular merit-based process; and

WHEREAS, Grade Point Average (GPA) based admissions have been in place at Lowell High School since 1966; and

WHEREAS, Since it’s implementation, Lowell High School’s merit-based admissions process has been legally challenged several times, citing the policy as a key factor in the persisting racial in-equity in the school; and

WHEREAS, According to SFUSD’s 2017-2018 School Accountability Report Card for Lowell, the school has a population of approximately 2,728 students and 56% of students identify as Asian, 14% identify as White, 10% identify as Latino, 2% identify as African American, and Native American or Pacific Islander students both makeup less than 1% of the student body; and

WHEREAS, A California Department of Education report revealed that achievement gaps for African Americans and Latinos in San Francisco are some of the worst in the state of San Francisco.
California with 96% of school districts across the state reporting better reading scores amongst low-income black students than low-income black students in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Lowell High School Principal Dacotah Swett stated that she believes a lottery system would shift the student body population at Lowell to more closely resemble to population of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, On Friday October 23rd, a Facebook page called “No2racebaiting” was created on Facebook attacking School Board Members Alison Collins and Gabriela Lopez, both of whom are women of color; and

WHEREAS, The No2racebaiting Facebook page posted an edited photo of the two School Board Members, depicting them with swastikas on their foreheads and red x-marks across their faces and an accompanying caption which read “NO TO NAZISM IN SFUSD;” and

WHEREAS, A video was then posted of a person wearing what appeared to be a bloody glove shown burning the photo of the two School Board Members; and

WHEREAS, Senator Scott Wiener and Black Senior Lowell High School student Shavonne Hines-Foster were both also harassed online following the press conference related to this issue, and Senator Wiener also received death threats; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors stands in solidarity with those elected officials, students, and community members who have been attacked and threatened during the discussions around the Lowell High School admissions process; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemns the use of violent imagery and threats of violence meant to intimidate and silence our city’s leaders.
Resolution condemning the recent attacks on San Francisco Board of Education Members and elected leaders after a vote temporarily ending Lowell High School’s merit-based admission process.

November 10, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 11/10/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

______________________________  __________________________
Angela Calvillo           Date
Clerk of the Board

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.

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Angela Calvillo           Date
Clerk of the Board