

Subject: Resolution No. 34-22A11

**Commending *Parent Voices* and the San Francisco Unified School District's
Efforts to Develop Asthma Emergency Plans and Improve Professional
Development Opportunities for Staff**

- Commissioners Eric Mar, Sarah Lipson, and Mark Sanchez

WHEREAS: *Asthma Relief for Kids* (a project of *Parent Voices*), the American Lung Association of San Francisco & San Mateo Counties and the Children's Environmental Health Promotion Program of the San Francisco Department of Public Health have come together to respond to the growing epidemic of asthma; and

WHEREAS: Asthma is the most common chronic illness among children today, impacting an estimated 1 in 10 children in San Francisco and, according to a community health survey, 1 in 6 children in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood; and

WHEREAS: Three children died of asthma within a six-month period last year in our city, an alarming tragedy since the last time a child had died from asthma was more than 13 years ago; and

WHEREAS: Our City has the fourth highest asthma hospitalization rate for children in the state, which is needlessly high given that hospitalizations are largely preventable and represent the most severe manifestations of asthma; and

WHEREAS: Uncontrolled asthma hinders children's attendance, participation and progress in school and pre-school; impacts quality of life for children and their families; strains family financial resources; and causes other undue burdens; and

WHEREAS: Asthma is a leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic conditions accounting for more than ten million lost school days every year nationally, which reduces funding for schools thru average daily attendance;

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Unified School District is concerned about asthma and has the resolve to address it, as revealed by interviews and focus groups with District officials and personnel which were conducted by the SF Asthma Task Force of the SF Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS: The death of a child from asthma at Burnett Child Development Center in 2002 is a tragic event that illustrates the seriousness of asthma episodes and the importance of proper asthma management and emergency response in the child development setting; and

WHEREAS: Since many children with asthma spend a substantial portion of their day in the Child Development Centers, teachers and staff should be trained adequately on asthma warning signs, medications, environmental control and emergency protocols; and

WHEREAS: The posting of a standardized Asthma Emergency Plan in each classroom of all Child Development Centers can provide quick access to critical information in the event of an asthma emergency and potentially save a child's life; and

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Asthma Task Force of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has proposed recommendations in its Citywide strategic plan that are consistent with this resolution; and

WHEREAS: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act Requires that all Child Development Programs make reasonable accommodations/modifications for children with disabilities, including breathing problems; and

WHEREAS: The SFUSD Child Development Program has only one (1) nurse serving 3,988 children at thirty-six (36) program sites in which at least ten (10) percent of these children have asthma according to San Francisco prevalence estimates (398 children) [the actual prevalence may even be higher given the demographics of children enrolled in the program]; and

WHEREAS: The Child Development Program is a high-quality program with exceptional personnel, and is well-positioned to enhance the capacity of its teachers and staff to care for children with asthma; and

WHEREAS: In meetings and communications with *Parent Voices*, District staff have highlighted the notable work our District has made in addressing asthma problems of our students and concurred with *Parent Voices* about the importance of annual asthma training for all teachers and staff and posting of asthma emergency plans in all classrooms.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education commends *Parent Voices* and the SFUSD Child Development Program for their work and accomplishments in addressing the needs of students with asthma and the professional development needs of staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the District continue its work with *Parent Voices* and other stakeholder parent organizations and the Asthma Task Force of the Board of Supervisors to further develop a comprehensive plan to address asthma issues in the District and seek additional sources of funding for this plan; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the District build on its ongoing asthma response work and **continue to(5/21/03)** provide at least two hours of training on asthma management and asthma emergency response for all teachers and staff in the Child Development Program on an annual basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all Child Development Centers post in every classroom an Asthma Emergency Plan that contains information about warning signs of asthma and steps to take in the event of an asthma episode or asthma emergency; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the proposals in this resolution be implemented over a three year period, starting academic year 2003/2004;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That at the end of each academic year, the Superintendent shall report the District's progress to the Board of Education; and at the end of the three year period, the Board of Education shall assess the effectiveness of the annual asthma training and posting of asthma emergency plans and determine whether or not to extend the timeframe of the proposals in this resolution.

4/22/03

6/10/03

Please Note:

- Referred to the Buildings, Grounds, and Services, Budget and Business Services, and Curriculum and Program Committees by order of the Chair on 4/22/03.
- Taken up by the Budget & Business Services Committee on 5/8/03. Forwarded to the remaining committees with a positive recommendation.
- Taken up by the Curriculum Com. on 5/21/03. Forwarded for approval by the Board with consensus of the Committee.
- Taken up by the Buildings, Grounds, and Services Committee on 5/28/03. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation from Committee.
- Adopted on June 10, 2003