

Subject: Resolution No. 610-24A1

Preparing All Students for a Multilingual/Multicultural World

- Commissioners Eric Mar, Dan Kelly, and Norman Yee

Whereas: The world we live in has become increasingly smaller and people of different languages and cultures are being brought ever closer under the forces of globalization; and

Whereas: San Francisco is widely recognized as a global city, steeped in the Old World languages and cultures, richly endowed with newer linguistic and cultural groups, and geographically and strategically important for both the California economy and U.S. international relations and trade; and

Whereas: Knowing one or more foreign languages is the hallmark of an educated person and foreign language education has always been a vital and integral part of public education throughout the U.S.; and

Whereas: ~~Bilingualism~~ **Multilingualism** has become increasingly a life-style and an indispensable skill under globalization as people of different languages and cultures come into frequent, close, and sustained contacts with each other through jobs, business, travel, entertainment, and sports, etc.; and

Whereas: Preparing students for our world of multilingualism and multiculturalism has become an integral and indispensable part of any educational process in most developed countries and in more and more developing countries; and

Whereas: The city of San Francisco is richly endowed with linguistic and cultural diversity and assets and is in a unique position to take full advantage of its assets and realize their fullest potential; and

Whereas: San Francisco possesses a long and outstanding academic track-record of operating successful public and community programs that teach, cultivate, and develop a large number of students with full mastery of bilingual and bicultural skills in a number of European, Latin American, and Asian languages; and

Whereas: It has been repeatedly proven by studies that young children acquire second and even third language skills with ease and with no demonstrable linguistic interference or retardation in the mastery of their native tongues and in all subject areas, as the district immersion programs in various languages have demonstrated, especially given the strong parent demand for these programs; and

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Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Board of Education is committed to making all possible efforts to provide, in an orderly fashion, every child, pre-K to 12, the opportunity to become bilingual and bicultural, to graduate from the SFUSD fluent in English and another language through a variety of approaches; and ~~each with native language fluency in English and another language, and to allow parents to decide what second language their children will acquire upon entering the district's kindergarten;~~

Be It Further Resolved: That the Superintendent shall coordinate a one-year study that would result in a plan that will guide and enable the SFUSD to carry out its intention in an orderly and year-by-year phase-in fashion and that such a study be overseen by a 21-member Blue-ribbon Task Force made up of representatives of parents, teachers, school planners, language experts, representatives of higher education, business organizations, employee groups, and civic leaders and in consultation with the District's Bilingual Community Council; and

Further Be It Resolved: That the plan shall take into account the educational needs and interests of English learners and students of diverse racial, cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic background and devise programs that will address their needs and interests, and and support fluency and literacy in the native languages of students who enter the District already bilingual or as non-English speakers; and

Be It Further Resolved: That the Superintendent be authorized to seek ~~extramural~~ external funds and language consultants to assist the Task Force in the study and planning process; and

Further Be It Resolved: That the Task Force and the Superintendent shall submit their report to the board for review and approval no later than October 1, 2007.

10/24/06

12/12/02

Please Note:

- Referred on 10/24/06 by order of the Chair to the Budget and Business Services and the Curriculum and Program Committees.
- Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 11/27/06. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation, as amended, by general consent of the committee.
- Taken up by the Curriculum and Program Committee on 12/5/06. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation, as amended, by general consent of the Committee.
- Adopted, as amended, on 12/12/06.