

Subject: Resolution No. 39-9A6

**In Support of the Arts, Music, Sports and Preschool for *Every Child*
Charter Amendment for the March 2004 SF Ballot**

- Commissioners Eric Mar, Sarah Lipson, Jill Wynns, Emilio B. Cruz,
Eddie Y. Chin, Dan Kelly, and Mark Sanchez

WHEREAS: This fall, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider the Arts, Music, Sports and Preschool for *Every Child Charter Amendment* (File # 031405) for the March 2004 San Francisco ballot; and

WHEREAS: The Arts, Music, Sports and Preschool for *Every Child Charter Amendment*, if approved by voters, will provide dramatically increased City funding for public education in San Francisco.

WHEREAS: The measure will, at full phase-in, establish:

1. Guaranteed funding from the City's General Fund of \$20 million annually at full phase-in for arts, music, sports and physical education and librarians at the San Francisco Unified School District;
2. Guaranteed funding from the City's General Fund of \$20 million annually to the San Francisco First Five Commission for universal preschool for four-year old City residents consistent with goals of the California First Five Commission and a City goal of providing universal preschool for all four-year old City residents by September 2009; and
3. Guaranteed direct financial support from the City's General Fund and/or in-kind City services worth \$20 million annually to support the San Francisco Unified School District for classroom purposes.

WHEREAS: The measure was drafted based on findings including, but not limited to:

1. Quality public education is highly correlated with higher earnings potential, reduced crime, lower rates of teen pregnancy and substance abuse, and greater self-esteem;
2. Urban public schools have the greatest need for comprehensive educational programs but often have the fewest resources to provide them;
3. While California once led the nation in public school spending and performance, investments have greatly declined. Despite San Francisco's high cost of living, SFUSD per pupil spending ranks 34th among 43 comparable central city U.S. public school districts of similar size;
4. SFUSD enrollment has dropped in recent years as families have left San Francisco in search of affordable neighborhoods with high-quality public schools;
5. Since 2000, the SFUSD has made strong improvements in achievement measures and financial management;

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6. The Sustainable Funding for School Arts and Music Task Force recommended in 2001 an increase of arts funding from \$90 per student to \$200 per student annually to provide adequate resources in the four major arts disciplines (visual arts, music, drama and dance);
7. The SFUSD Athletics Office estimates that \$5 million in additional funding is required annually to provide for sports programs; an additional \$2.5 million-\$5 million is required to provide part or full-time physical education teachers at all 78 SFUSD elementary schools;
8. To achieve national average staffing ratios of librarians to students at the SFUSD, ~~an additional~~ **at least** \$3 million **more** annually is required; and
9. The San Francisco First Five Commission estimates that the costs to provide universal preschool for all eligible children would be \$21 to \$30 million for a one-year program (4 year olds) and \$42 to \$60 million for a two-year program (3 and 4 year olds).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District respectfully urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to submit the Arts, Music, Sports and Preschool for *Every Child Charter Amendment* for voter consideration at the March 2, 2004 election; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District requests that the Superintendent of Schools or her designee participate in such public and other discussions to communicate the District's position and to present information related to the San Francisco Unified School District's financial needs.

9/9/03

9/23/03

PLEASE NOTE:

- Referred to the Rules, Policy and Legislation Committee by order of the Chair on 9/9/03.
- Taken up by the Rules, Policy and Legislation Committee on 9/18/03. Forwarded to the Board of Education with a positive recommendation from Committee. (2 present, 1 absent).
- Adopted, As Amended, by the Board of Education on 9/23/03.