

Subject: Resolution No. 21-8A6

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A SMALL AUTONOMOUS SCHOOLS
POLICY FOR SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**
- Commissioners Mark Sanchez and Eric Mar

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is committed to
disrupt the deterministic relationship between low socio-economic status students
of color and their low academic achievement evident in District schools; and

WHEREAS: As documented in SFUSD's *Excellence for All*, historical inequities in
academic achievement persist in high concentrations for students who attend
District schools in the southeast section of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS: Considerable and reliable research has shown that small (redesigned)
autonomous schools demonstrate significant:

- Improved academic achievement for students, particularly students of color and low income students;
- Increased satisfaction among students, parents, educators and the larger school community;
- Higher attendance and graduation rates;
- Decreased school violence and disruptive behavior; and

WHEREAS: Small schools achieve these results with lower costs per graduate than
larger schools which historically have sought to educate low income students of
color; and

WHEREAS: A large movement for equitable small schools has already taken root in
San Francisco through the work of parents, educators, and new school
developers.

~~THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:~~ ~~That the San Francisco Unified School District, in
conjunction with school and community stakeholders,
enter into comprehensive planning stages to begin a systemic move toward small, autonomous
schools; and~~

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~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That such planning and creation of small,
_____ autonomous schools initially focus on serving students who
are currently underserved in SFUSD schools, particularly those in the southeast section of San
Francisco; and~~

~~**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That such planning stages include (but not be limited
_____ to) the School District's commitment of one cabinet level
official to serve as both a community liaison and central administrator of this new small schools
initiative, as well as the convening of a formal district small schools working committee
representing major bargaining units, parents, students and central administration which will help
guide the planning and implementation of a District autonomous small schools policy; and~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That in its efforts to implement this policy, the
_____ District will avail itself to the already offered opportunities
to work with regional experts on small schools design from Stanford University and the Bay
Area Coalition for Equitable Schools; and~~

~~**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the District strengthen its relationship with the
_____ University of San Francisco by working with the Center for
Teaching Excellence and Social Justice to provide professional development opportunities for
educators who will work at small autonomous schools, and by working with the newly forming
USF Center for Small Schools, which is being developed with the express intention of assisting
the District in implementing this major educational policy initiative; and~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the District offset the costs inherent for
_____ planning, startup, and ongoing implementation of this small
schools policy by obtaining funding grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Education
Foundation and other organizations which financially support small autonomous school reform
efforts.~~

***FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education directs the
Superintendent to convene a small schools working group to
be included as part of her High Schools Task Force and report back to the Board at a time
certain.***

1/8/02

2/26/02

- Note: Referred to Curriculum & Program Committee by order of the Chair on 1/8/02
- Amended (Com. Chong) at the Curriculum & Program Committee Mtg. Held on January 15, 2002. Referred, as amended, to the Budget and Business Services Committee by recommendation of the Curriculum Committee.
Old language stricken out ----- ***new language in italics and bold***
- Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 2/20/02. Recommendation to forward to the Board of Education for adoption.
- Adopted, As Amended, by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of 2/26/02.