

Subject: Resolution No. **94-28A2**

**Parent Engagement and Partnership Plan**

- Commissioners Norman Yee and Sandra Lee Fewer

**WHEREAS:** It is the goal of the District to make social justice a reality by diminishing the historic power of demographics as it relates to student achievement and to keep our promises to students and families; and

**WHEREAS:** Research shows that when families are involved at home and at school, children do better in school, and the schools improve. Students with involved parents are more likely to: Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs; Be promoted, pass their classes and earn credits; attend school regularly; exhibit better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school environments; and Graduate and go on to post-secondary education; and

**WHEREAS:** Studies show that all families are talking to their children about school, trying to keep them focused on learning and homework, encouraging them to work hard and get a good education, and helping them plan for higher education. However, families with higher levels of education and income have greater opportunity than other families to be more engaged at school, better able to work collaboratively with educators, and therefore to be better informed about how to help their children at home; and

**WHEREAS:** It is to the benefit of the District and the families which the District serves, that more families have the opportunity to speak out for children and support their progress, and

**WHEREAS:** Investing in parent education when children are young will pay off throughout their whole career in school. The more that programs and activities for families are linked to what their children are learning and doing in class, the greater impact they will have on student achievement; and

**WHEREAS:** The District recognizes that community organizing efforts to build parent and community leadership are improving schools. Parent leadership training and community organizing expand families' knowledge of how the system works and how to make it work for their children; and

**WHEREAS:** When families are welcomed and treated with respect, honored for their contribution, connected to teachers, other parents and what is happening in the classroom, and taught to advocate for their children and all children in the San Francisco public schools, they become motivated to be involved over the long-term, in ways that can improve their children's success in school; and

**WHEREAS:** Over the past eight (8) years, programs instituted by the Office of School/Family Partnership (formerly Office of Parents Relations) have successfully increased parent engagement in our school sites; and

**WHEREAS:** There are existing avenues for parents and families to be involved in schools and in the District such as PTSA, PTA, School Site Councils, Parent Advisory Council, and a variety of District advisory groups; and

**WHEREAS:** There are many organizations that work with parents and families to advocate and support their children's education including Coleman Advocacy for Children, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and Parents for Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS:** There are many forms of parent engagement and partnerships as articulated by experts in the field, like Joyce Epstein and her identification of six (6) types of parent engagement; and

**WHEREAS:** It is the District's intent to go beyond offering parent education and inviting select parents to serve on school site and district advisory groups with the goal of getting input on decisions; and

**WHEREAS:** The last resolution offered by the Board to address parent involvement was adopted on May 28, 1996; and

**WHEREAS:** There is an opportunity to innovate using stimulus dollars allocated through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to prepare our staff and offer all parents and families opportunities to engage in their children's education and advocate on behalf of their children, and

**WHEREAS:** There may be many examples of best practices within the District to meet our strategic plan objective 3.2): Create the culture of service and support.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District requests the Superintendent of Schools to develop a District Pre K-12 Parent Engagement and Partnership Program that:

- (1) strengthens the District's existing efforts to expand parent learning and leadership opportunities and fully aligns them to the parent/family/community engagement provisions of Beyond the Talk and the Lau and LEA Plans;
- (2) defines the District's vision for, purpose and belief in, and commitment to engaging parents in empowering roles in the District, with special attention to engaging historically marginalized parents in leadership and partnership opportunities;
- (3) defines clearly the roles of the parent liaisons in furthering this work;
- (4) defines the various levels of parent engagement and specifies the acceptable evidence of the District's success in implementing them; and
- (5) considers an array of research-supported promising parent engagement practices that lead to informed and empowered parent leaders and advocates; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent will work with community partners to develop the Parent Engagement and Partnership Program, which also includes professional development for administrators and teachers, and to increase the opportunities for parents to engage in community organizing to improve schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent will develop the evaluation tools necessary to hold accountable the District and school sites for the implementation of the Program; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That District staff will report back to the Board on the development of the Program no later than five (5) months from passage of this resolution, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That needed resources be allocated to implement the Program and to take advantage of the one-time Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus dollars.

4/28/09

5/12/09

5/26/09