

## First Reading

Subject: Resolution No.  
**Modifications to the Student Assignment Method for the 2008-09 School Year**  
- Commissioners Norman Yee and Sarah Lipson

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Education passed Resolution No. 68-22A1 on September 12, 2006 indicating that it planned to present proposals to modify the student assignment for the 2008-09 school year to the San Francisco community before December 2006; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Education Approved K resolution 63-28K22 on March 28, 2006 to hire the Omega Group to create a geographic database for SFUSD and to assist the Board of Education to develop boundary options; and

**WHEREAS:** San Francisco prides itself on its rich diversity, and the Board of Education believes this diversity should also exist within each of our public schools; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Education believes that there are several compelling reasons for providing students the opportunity to attend schools with diverse enrollments; and

**WHEREAS:** For example, the Board of Education believes, and research supports, that a high quality education is most effective in a diverse setting; and

**WHEREAS:** One of the key educational benefits of diversity is improved achievement for all students; and

**WHEREAS:** Other educational benefits are that students are better prepared to live and work in a diverse world; students engage in deeper and richer class discussions and debates; peers are more likely to provide a positive influence; students learn about and appreciate other cultures; and teachers are more likely to have high expectations for all students; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Education also believes, and the research supports, that there are harms to students attending racially and economically isolated schools; and

**WHEREAS:** In addition, the Board believes that all students should have equitable opportunities to attend schools and programs within the SFUSD; and

**WHEREAS:** Under the current student assignment system both the number of schools with high concentrations of a single racial/ethnic group and the magnitude of such concentrations have increased since 1999; and

**WHEREAS:** Decisions regarding changes to the student assignment method need to occur well in advance of the enrollment period so changes can be communicated to the San Francisco community through multilingual outreach and recruitment materials.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education's goals for the student assignment method are to:

1. Improve achievement for students of all racial and ethnic groups and reduce the achievement gap for African American and Latino students;
2. Preserve parent choice in the student assignment process;
3. Provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, including poor and disadvantaged students, students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, English Language Learners and special education students;
4. Provide students the opportunity to experience the educational benefits of schools with diverse enrollments;
5. Reduce segregation of schools, programs, and classrooms;
6. Sustain and build enrollment; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education is going to work with the Omega Group to examine the current attendance area boundaries; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to eliminate attendance areas for all SUFSD high schools beginning with assignments for the 2008-09 school year; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to develop a plan that includes the development and implementation of magnet programs at schools in order to attract students with diverse enrollments to schools and to increase the programmatic choices available to parents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to create a working group to develop recommended changes to the admissions process for Lowell High School and SOTA high school for the 2008-09 school year with the goal of ensuring equitable opportunities for students with diverse backgrounds to attend Lowell and SOTA and increasing the diversity of the students enrolled in these schools; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to clarify the definition of alternative schools in a manner that is consistent with the Board of Education's goals for the student assignment method; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to review and revise the transportation infrastructure in a manner that is consistent with the Board of Education's goals for the student assignment method; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to rename the *diversity index lottery* the *student assignment lottery*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to pre-assign students living in extreme poverty after younger siblings and students with program need starting with assignments for the 2008-09 school year; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to add race and ethnicity as a factor in the student assignment lottery to be used in a narrowly tailored manner in order to achieve the compelling governmental interests identified by the Board, beginning with assignments for the 2008-09 school year.

