

Adopted by the Board of Education, as amended, at the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2010

Subject: Resolution No. 101-26A1

In Support of an Ethnic Studies Program in the San Francisco Unified School District

- Commissioners Jane Kim, Sandra Lee Fewer and Kim-Shree Maufas

WHEREAS: It is the 40th anniversary of the creation and institutionalization of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University; and

WHEREAS: San Francisco was the birthplace of a national movement to include the marginalized voices of communities of color at the university level; and

WHEREAS: A central piece of the struggle to implement Ethnic Studies at the university level was to expand its inclusion into all levels of education; and

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Board of Education has passed previous resolutions (March 9, 2004) in support of the importance and future implementation of Ethnic Studies in SFUSD schools; and

WHEREAS: A growing body of academic research shows the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum; and

WHEREAS: San Francisco Unified School District acknowledges the importance of Social Justice and Equity in a child's education; and

WHEREAS: The existing Ethnic Studies curriculum developed by SFUSD teachers encourages students to explore specific aspects of identity on personal, interpersonal and institutional levels; and

WHEREAS: The existing Ethnic Studies curriculum developed by SFUSD teachers helps steer youth away from truancy and the juvenile justice system by making their educational experience more personal and relevant; and

WHEREAS: The existing Ethnic Studies curriculum developed by SFUSD teachers provides students with interdisciplinary reading, writing and analytical skills; and

WHEREAS: The existing Ethnic Studies curriculum developed by SFUSD teachers fosters strong ties between students and their families, neighborhoods, and schools, thus encouraging a sense of civic engagement and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS: The current Ethnic Studies curriculum has broad support from students, parents, teachers, administrators, community organizations, and members of local government; and

WHEREAS: According to 2009-2010 school year data, 90% of SFUSD students are students of color; and

WHEREAS: The Ethnic Studies curriculum can help close the achievement gap, reduce drop-out rates, and increase graduation rates; and

WHEREAS: San Francisco State University's College of Ethnic Studies is committed to college access and will provide students who take Ethnic Studies at San Francisco Unified School District up to 6 units of college credit that may be used for general education requirements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District supports the current efforts of Ethnic Studies teachers and students at its current sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education supports and requests that the Superintendent implement an Ethnic Studies pilot program in SFUSD High Schools (a total of 10 sections) for the 2010-11 school year which will fulfill the G requirement of the A-G Graduation requirements; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That for school year 2010-11, the costs of the teacher FTE's be shared between site-based budgets of participating schools and centralized budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That to the greatest extent possible, costs of supervision and professional development, pursuant to this resolution, be funded by restricted federal funds or other professional development funds; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education supports efforts at recruiting and retaining teachers who have relevant experience and educational background in the study and/or teaching of Ethnic Studies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education supports the future implementation and growth of Ethnic Studies beyond the 2010-2011 school year, including the option for students in all high schools to participate in the Ethnic Studies curriculum by the 2011-2012 school year if funds can be secured for FY 2011-12; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That funding for this program will be reevaluated and incorporated into the budget development process for FY 2010-11.

1/26/10

2/23/10

Please Note:

- Referred by order of Chair on 1/26/10 to the Curriculum and Program and Budget and Business Services Committees.
- Taken up by the Curriculum and Program Committee on 2/1/10. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation by general consent of the Committee.
- Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 2/22/10. Forwarded to the Board, as amended, with a positive recommendation by general consent of the Committee.
- Adopted, as amended, on 2/23/10.