

1 [Resolution in support of increasing existing funding for wellness centers in San
2 Francisco Public High Schools]
3 **Resolution in Support of Increasing Existing Funding for Wellness Programs,**
4 **Resources, Outreach, and Education in San Francisco Public High Schools**
5 **Including More Professional Development for School Staff on Wellness Practices**
6 **and Frameworks Such as Healing-Centered Care, and Youth-Anchored Peer-to-**
7 **Peer Counseling**

8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Wellness Initiative was launched to improve the
9 health and well-being of all SFUSD students¹; and,

10 WHEREAS, Wellness centers were implemented in SFUSD schools to provide
11 mental and physical health care services available to all SFUSD students, therefore
12 enhancing students' feelings of safety and belonging²; and,

13 WHEREAS, In the 2006-2007 Youth Commission Budget and Policy Priority
14 Proposals, the Youth Commission consistently advocated for the expansion and funding
15 of SFUSD wellness centers to the City's Middle and High Schools, as well as the
16 preservation of mental health programs and the use of add-backs to hire more wellness
17 center staff in the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Youth Commission Budget and Policy
18 Priority Proposals³; and,

19 WHEREAS, A KidsData survey⁴ found that 30.2% of Black SFUSD students in
20 grades 7, 9, and 11 experienced depression-related feelings, along with 29.7% of
21 Hispanic/Latino students, and 22.4% of Asian students; and,

¹ "SFUSD Expands Access to Health and Wellness Supports for Students." *SFUSD*, <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2021-08-06-sfusd-expands-access-health-and-wellness-supports-students>.

² "SFUSD Expands Access to Health and Wellness Supports for Students." *SFUSD*, <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2021-08-06-sfusd-expands-access-health-and-wellness-supports-students>.

³ *Youth Commission*. Budget and Policy Reports | Youth Commission. (n.d.). Retrieved March 27, 2023, from <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/budget-and-policy-reports>

⁴ "San Francisco," KidsData, accessed February 22, 2023, <https://www.kidsdata.org/region/266/san-francisco/results#ind=&say=&cat=27>.

1 WHEREAS, these issues increased and disparities, only increased with the
2 COVID-19 pandemic in 2020⁵; and,

3 WHEREAS, the pandemic school closures deprived students from seeing
4 classmates, and being a part of organizations, teams, and programs which offered them
5 joy and purpose⁶; and,

6 WHEREAS, Following the pandemic, SFUSD committed to supporting students'
7 mental health and wellness, as well as increasing access to health and wellness
8 services for middle school students⁷; and,

9 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission recognizes the need for a larger investment
10 in mental health services coming out of the pandemic⁸; and,

11 WHEREAS, Many SFUSD students presently do not have access to wellness
12 centers for a variety of reasons, including a lack of diverse representation⁹ and a
13 disconnect between services and students, as students do not feel comfortable
14 accessing the wellness centers¹⁰; and

15 WHEREAS, A survey published by K12 Dive reports that Black students are the
16 least likely to report having a trusted adult at school and the most likely to claim that
17 their school mental health professional cannot understand their situation due to racial or
18 ethnic differences¹¹ ; and,

⁵ "Pandemic Shines Light on Mental Health Crisis Facing SF Students." *Pandemic Shines Light on Mental Health Crisis Facing SF Students - San Francisco Examiner*, 6/4/2021 *Imperial County, California*, 4 June 2021, <https://imperial.networkofcare.org/mh/news-article-detail.aspx?id=123812>.

⁶ "SFUSD Expands Access to Health and Wellness Supports for Students." *SFUSD*, <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2021-08-06-sfusd-expands-access-health-and-wellness-supports-students>.

⁷ "SFUSD Expands Access to Health and Wellness Supports for Students." *SFUSD*, <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2021-08-06-sfusd-expands-access-health-and-wellness-supports-students>.

⁸ *Youth Commission*. Hearing on the City's reimbursement practices and maximizing funding for mental health services from State and Federal programs, including, but not limited to, Mental Health Medi-Cal administrative activities; and requesting the Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, Juvenile Probation Department, San Francisco Unified School District, and community-based mental health providers to report. (2021, February 26). Retrieved February 19, 2023, from <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/210042%20Youth%20Commission%202021-RBM-09.pdf>

⁹ "Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign." *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

¹⁰ "Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign." *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

¹¹ Modan, Naaz. "Survey: Third of Students Reluctant to Seek Help for Mental Health Issues." *K*, 23 May 2022, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/survey-third-of-students-reluctant-to-seek-help-for-mental-health-issues/624200/>.

1 WHEREAS, The Chinese Progressive Association’s 2017 survey (of nearly 1000
2 SFUSD students) found that the SFUSD wellness centers currently do not meet the
3 cultural and linguistic needs of its students and families¹²; and,

4 WHEREAS, Students do not want their parents to know they are meeting with a
5 school counselor, and are concerned that school staff will treat them differently or
6 provide them with fewer opportunities at school¹³; and,

7 WHEREAS, The Chinese Progressive Association’s 2017 survey showed that
8 36% of lesbian and gay students reported that concerns about family and friends finding
9 out about their mental health issues barred them from accessing the wellness centers.¹⁴

10 RESOLVED, That the the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor of
11 San Francisco and Board of Supervisors to collaborate with the Board of Education to
12 increase existing funding for wellness programs, resources, outreach, and education in
13 San Francisco public schools, including professional development for school staff on
14 wellness practices and frameworks such as healing-centered care and youth-anchored
15 peer-to-peer counseling; and,

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San
17 Francisco and Board of Supervisors to collaborate with the Board of Education to
18 ensure a more culturally and linguistically appropriate wellness center staff and
19 services; and,

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San
21 Francisco and Board of Supervisors to collaborate with the Board of Education to

¹² “Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign.” Chinese Progressive Association, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

¹³ “Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign.” *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

¹⁴ “Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign.” *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

1 expand access to wellness centers to all SFUSD schools, including middle and high
2 schools; and,

3 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission
4 urges the Mayor of San Francisco and Board of Supervisors to collaborate with the
5 Board of Education to research the disparity between schools in access to wellness
6 programs and resources, with the goal of reducing inequity across San Francisco public
7 schools.