

**MERGED RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT ITS  
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2004**

Subject: Resolution No. 43-9A4

**Food Safety and Food Irradiation**

- Commissioners Eddie Y. Chin, Dan Kelly, Sarah Lipson, Heather A. Hiles, Eric Mar, Mark Sanchez, and Jill Wynns and Student Delegates Jason Wong and Alan Wong

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Education is committed to developing all necessary policies related to providing healthy food for our students; and

**WHEREAS:** The Food Services Division of the SFUSD is also responsible for and committed to ensuring the nutritional value and safety of the food served in our district, and

**WHEREAS:** Food poisoning continues to be a problem in the United States, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates with up to 5000 deaths, and

**WHEREAS:** Many people, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) believe that food irradiation prior to shipment from the processing facilities can be used to eliminate viable pathologic organisms from many foods, including meats and vegetables, and

**WHEREAS:** The sale of irradiated meat has been available to the public since 1999 but has not been received with consumer confidence nor has it been permitted in our public school meal programs until this time; and

**WHEREAS:** There have been no comprehensive, long-term studies done on humans regarding the health effects associated with the consumption of irradiated foods as a regular part of their diet; and

**WHEREAS:** Many consumer groups strongly oppose the use of irradiated foods, citing research that this process destroys essential vitamins and can result in the formation of chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer and birth defects, including benzene, methyl ethyl ketone, toluene, methanol and cyclobutanones; and

**WHEREAS:** On May 29, 2003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that irradiated meat may, for the first time, be used by local school districts in their federally subsidized lunch programs, and the USDA indicated that districts will be able to, but not mandated to, purchase irradiated meat as of January 2004; and

**WHEREAS:** On January 14, 2003, the San Francisco Board of Education adopted Resolution No. 211-12A8, which provides that the "Board is interested in providing our students with the most healthy and appealing food choices possible, and diminishing the dependence of schools and school-related organizations on selling products of questionable nutritional value." and

Subject: Resolution No. 43-9A4 (merged resolutions)

**Food Safety and Food Irradiation**

- Commissioners Eddie Y. Chin, Dan Kelly, and Sarah Lipson, Heather A. Hiles, Eric Mar, Mark Sanchez, and Jill Wynns

**Page 2**

**WHEREAS:** The SFUSD has not in the past used irradiated foods, is not currently using these products, and has no current plans or proposal to use such foods.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District hereby prohibits for five (5) years the use of any and all irradiated food products in our Food Services lunch, breakfast and snack program at all District school sites; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education requires that the Food Services Division notify the Board prior to the issuance of any Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of such food products to SFUSD Food Services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings on this matter at such time as the Food Services Department wishes to consider the use of such foods and prior to entering into any contract to purchase or use irradiated foods; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education review this policy in five (5) years to reassess the health concerns that exist around the consumption of irradiated foods.

4/27/04