



**City and County of San Francisco  
YOUTH COMMISSION  
Civic Engagement and Education Committee  
Joint Meeting with  
Board of Supervisors  
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 1, 2024  
4:00 pm**

**IN-PERSON MEETING**

**Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee Members:** Catherine Stefani (Chair), Joel Engardio (Vice Chair), Matt Dorsey

**Youth Commission Committee Members:** Valentina Alioto-Pier (Mayoral, Chair), Isabella T. Perez (Mayoral, Vice Chair), Ewan Barker Plummer (Mayoral, Member), Joselyn Marroquin (Mayoral, Member).

**Present:** Valentina Alioto-Pier, Ewan Barker Plummer, Joselyn Marroquin

**Absent:**

**Tardy:**

The San Francisco Youth Commission's Civic Engagement and Education Committee met in person in a special session with the Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee with BOS PSNS Chair Catherine Stefani presiding.

PSNS Chair Stefani called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Chair Stefani makes introductions.

Clerk Carroll provides announcements.

**Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance**



On the call of the roll:

Ewan Barker Plummer present  
Joselyn Marroquin present  
Isabella T. Perez present  
Valentina Alioto-Pier present

**4 present**

***A quorum of the Civic Engagement and Education Committee was present.***

### **Special Agenda: Hearing - Evaluation of SFUSD's Safety Procedures**

Chair Stefani provides opening remarks. Chair Alioto-Pier provides opening remarks.

Director Markwith and Asst. Superintendent Guthertz present.

Commissioner Barker Plummer asks a question about the procedure between SFUSD and SFPD. What does first contact look like? Under the impression from students, if the principal calls 911, and someone else makes a second call, it'd go to the central office. Is that accurate? Can the school call 911 again directly? Director Markwith answers that in incidents that happen onsite, the principals are the site leaders and the first contact for the incident. There is currently a good relationship between SFUSD and SFPD. They meet on Mondays for LEAD division and answer questions relating to school safety, Captains will discuss best practices and policies and check on any incidents that may come up. The community is notified through text and phone calls. Commissioner Barker Plummer asks whether all incidents go through the Central Office. Director Markwith says that schools should call 911 when there is an emergency. There is no intervention between the site and the Central Office, so they don't need to get permission to call 911. However, the Central Office does have a Central Emergency Operations Hub.

Supervisor Dorsey asks about the connections between school shootings and bullying. What does the school district do for bullying and access to guns? Is there a culture, climate, peace, and a sense of belonging, and how to support science? How do students feel ok, valued, and safe because that is critical? What are the expectations for which the students feel safe in their environments? SFUSD answers that they take bullying very seriously. The District has social workers identifying bullying and intervening. Community outreach workers also have community hubs that students can go to. The District's Office of Equity would investigate the bullying incidents. Expulsions are sometimes results and there are other remedies. The goal is to address and mitigate. Supervisor Dorsey appreciates the work of his colleagues and apologizes to the new generation.



Vice Chair Perez comments and makes her remarks. She asks about the District's progress with the Public Announcement (PA) systems. What measures is SFUSD going to take to get funding if the bond intended for November doesn't pass? SFUSD answers that since the 2016 bond, the District standards have changed. Every school does have a PA system, but they're not up to the current standards. Funding for PA system modernization is a priority for the District Facilities and Operations department, and they're making sure these jobs get done. Commissioner Perez continues by asking for the current status and what is considered a malfunction of a PA system.

Commissioner Marroquin asks about the process for timely crisis communication. How or when are students, educators, and families alerted of incidents that have taken place or that are ongoing? SFUSD responds that the Communications team breaks down the impact by different communication levels: low, medium, and high. The goal is to get all the information first before letting students and families know. They want to ensure that the information is whole and accurate. Low impact is none or minimal fights. Small disturbances would not halt the school day. The medium impact is when policy activities are in the neighborhood. High impact is classified as any school evacuations, lockdowns, lockouts, and gas leaks. The District will spring into action and send texts and emails immediately.

Chair Alioto-Pier asks about drills taking place in SFUSD schools. SFUSD responds that current district policies state how to practice drills at each school. Every school year, schools have to do a drill, and it's the law and included in those plans. There are fire drills, earthquake drills, lockdown, and lockout drills. There are two drills each year. Every school is different and they decide when to do each drill. There are a lot of things to keep in consideration. Schools do get templates each year with examples, advice, and regulation procedures on how to do each drill.

Commissioner Barker Plummer follows up on the PA system and November 2024 bond questions, and why is the District not considering funding options now and grants programs that are at the federal and state levels? SFUSD responds that a lot of monetization work is at play, and the 2016 bond was to modernize SFUSD. Between 2013 and 2016, there was no modernization of the PA systems. The District recognizes that it's an important issue to work on. Commissioner Barker Plummer asks a question about third-party apps, notifications through those channels, and certain challenges to deal with them. The presenter responds that social media and third-party apps are hard to monitor. Asst. Superintendent Guthertz responds that the District is working with students to calmly and properly use social media so that students understand that these different apps relay different information and are able to increase digital literacy. They acknowledge that it's difficult to combat third-party apps and SFUSD doesn't have much control over them, but the apps tend to not have accurate information. The Citizen app is the worst thing they have had to deal with. Director Melgarejo emphasized that the goal is to not cause panic on social media. The District has a grant from the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (DCYF) to work on educating students on how to respectfully use social media. Commissioner Barker Plummer asks about what communications with students look like



in real-time. Director Markwith responds that communication is quick and accurate so parents know what is happening at their child's school site. They also have a school messenger program that helps with distributing swift and accurate information. Commissioner Barker Plummer follows up by asking about the active alert system and what it looks like. The District responds that there is real-time communication with students, such as during the George Washington High School incident for the spread of information of an active threat. However, not every active shooter situation is going to be perfect.

Vice Chair Perez follows up by asking about the post-incident uniform response. What is the District or school doing to let students know about mental health services, do the students need to reach out personally, or does the school offer it? She continues to ask if there are lead folks at each site and whether there are lessons in the classroom so students feel safe afterward. She comments that students may need to take the initiative to go to an adult so it would be good for the coordinated committee to go to students. The schools should have resources for all different outcomes. The District responds that they have resources for all different outcomes. There is also balanced information and that's why at Washington, they didn't go into lockdown because they didn't want to further traumatize students with this. Vice Chair Perez comments that all students deal with different things differently and a student-wide assembly sometimes may not be it. Further comment on communications in newsletters and having the information on websites. There are further comments on getting information to monolingual families and finding ways to communicate in all different modes, channels, languages and being accessible.

Commissioner Barker Plummer about the Say Something program and how it's being advertised to students. Asst. Superintendent Guthertz says that the District is actively training 6-12th graders and receiving training from the Sandy Hooks Organization. Commissioner Barker Plummer asked if the District is using the App or not. The District responds that they are using the app. Every school has a team of three to five people and gets alerted on what's going on. Commissioner Barker Plummer further asks about the distribution of safe firearm storage information. Director Melgarejo says that the information is posted on the website and the information is continuously being updated. Chair Stefani asks the District if they're using the right channels, like Sandy Hooks Promises. The District responds that they are using the right channels. Commissioner Barker Plummer comments and emphasizes physical copies being distributed as well. Chair Stefani asks if the Say Something information can be distributed as well. The District further responds that the Sandy Hooks organization is educating students.

Chair Alioto-Pier asks about whether there's emotional support for students because drills can be traumatizing, and whether there's a plan in place for more support teams out there. Are the students getting enough time with support staff? Because there have been responses from students that they're only getting 15 minutes with counselors, and there's a need for more support and resources. Asst. Superintendent Guthertz responds.



### **Public Comment:**

1. Celeste, Moms Demand Action, provides public comment on agenda item 1.
2. Sarah Montoya, Moms Demand Action and SF Parents Coalition, provides public comment on agenda item 1.
3. Sophia, George Washington High School, provides public comment on agenda item 1. Wellness Centers are super understaffed and there's a lack of information given to students
4. Vincent, George Washington High School student, provides public comment on agenda item 1. He has never heard about the Say Something reporting system.
5. Tom Pier, D2 resident of 30 years, provides public comment on agenda item 1. He emphasized the need for regulation of social media across the nation.
6. Jen Nossokof, public school parent, provides public comment on agenda item 1.
7. Stephanie Bokenstine, public school parent, provides public comment on agenda item 1.

PSNS Committee motions and votes.

Youth Commission CEEC provides closing remarks.

Board of Supervisor PSNS Committee provides closing remarks.

Chair Stefani provides closing remarks.

### **Adjournment**

There is no further business. The meeting is adjourned at 5:32 pm.