

1 [Youth Commission Sponsorship of the Redefining Education Project]

2 **Declaring the Youth Commission's sponsorship of the Redefining Education Project, including**  
3 **a November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Redefining Education Conference.**

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5       Whereas, high school is undeniably important in the education of young people,  
6 preparing youth to thrive as adults and to be responsible members of society; and

7       Whereas, students are often not involved in shaping their own educational experience  
8 and are not aware that they should and can do so; and

9       Whereas, even if students should speak up, their voices often aren't heard; and

10       Whereas, current assessment based education discourages students from talking  
11 about important life questions in the classroom (i.e. what does it mean to be successful?); and

12       Whereas, there is a need to provide a structure in which students can ponder and  
13 discuss such important questions; and

14       Whereas, this identified need is common to both public and private schools; and

15       Whereas, the Redefining Education Project's goals are threefold: (1) to motivate  
16 students to contemplate and discuss pertinent life questions; (2) to involve students in shaping  
17 their own educational experience; and (3) to create a structure for students and teachers to  
18 come together in addressing these questions; and

19       Whereas, the Redefining Education Project consists of a fall conference and  
20 subsequent spring events;

21       Whereas, the Redefining Education Conference will bring together 50 high school  
22 students and teachers to think critically and develop ideas about how to refocus high school  
23 on questions that are relevant to youth, and to plan spring events that will implement these  
24 ideas around the bay area; and

25       Whereas, the Redefining Education Conference facilitates discussion between

1 students and teachers about certain important education topics such as the extent of  
2 memorization in classrooms, the usefulness of homework, the affect of standardized testing,  
3 and the role school should play in exploration of ethical and moral questions; and

4       Whereas, the Redefining Education Conference is designed to empower students and  
5 teachers to actively work together to bring change to their educational communities; and

6       Whereas, the conference will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 755 Ocean Avenue,  
7 San Francisco, California 94114; now, therefore, be it

8       Resolved, that the San Francisco Youth Commission hereby sponsors the Redefining  
9 Education Project, including the Redefining Education Conference; and be it further

10       Resolved, that the Youth Commission urges all youth and teachers to participate in the  
11 Redefining Education Project by contacting the Youth Commission; and be it further

12       Resolved, that the Youth Commission also urges the BOS, the mayor, and DCYF to  
13 spread awareness of the project and the related educational issues to all SF young people,  
14 families, and those involved in education; now be it finally

15       Resolved, that the Youth Commission urges SFUSD to co-sponsor the Redefining  
16 Education Project and Conference.