



**San Francisco Youth Commission  
Civic Engagement and Education Committee  
Minutes – Draft  
Tuesday, June 6, 2023  
5:30 PM**

**IN-PERSON MEETING with REMOTE ACCESS**

**Members:** Maureen Loftus (Chair), Steven Hum (Vice Chair), Vanessa Pimentel, Ewan Barker Plummer, Astrid Utting

**Present:** Maureen Loftus (Chair), Steven Hum (Vice Chair), Vanessa Pimentel, Ewan Barker Plummer, Astrid Utting

**Tardy:** Vanessa Pimentel

**Absent:**

The San Francisco Youth Commission met in-person in regular session and provided public comment through teleconferencing, on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, with Chair Maureen Loftus presiding.

Chair Loftus calls the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

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

On the call of the roll:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present / Absent</b>
Commissioner Barker Plummer	present
Commissioner Pimentel	absent
Commissioner Utting	present
Vice Chair Hum	present
Chair Loftus	present

***4 present, 1 absent  
Quorum is met.***



Staff Zhan informed the Committee that Commissioner Pimentel did not provide prior communication that they were absent.

## 2. Communications

*Commissioner Pimentel arrives at 5:33 PM.*

Joy Zhan, staff, provides communications.

## 3. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Moved by Commissioner Barker Plummer to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hum.

*No discussion*

*No public comment.*

The motion to approve today's agenda is carried by a voice vote:

Member	Aye / Nay / Abstain / Absent
Commissioner Barker Plummer	aye
Commissioner Pimentel	aye
Commissioner Utting	aye
Vice Chair Hum	aye
Chair Loftus	aye

**5 ayes**

***The motion passes.***

## 4. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

a. May 16, 2023

Moved by Commissioner Utting, seconded by Commissioner Pimentel to approve the May 16, 2023 Committee meeting minutes.

*No discussion.*

*No public comment.*



The motion to approve the minutes for the May 16, 2023 Committee meeting minutes is carried by a voice vote:

Member	Aye / Nay / Abstain / Absent
Commissioner Barker Plummer	aye
Commissioner Pimentel	aye
Commissioner Utting	aye
Vice Chair Hum	aye
Chair Loftus	aye

**5 ayes**

***The motion passes.***

**5. Public Comment on matters not on Today’s Agenda** (2 minutes per comment)

*No public comment.*

**6. Committee Business** (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

**A) Upcoming Resolutions**

Vice Chair Hum and Commissioner Pimentel will be submitting the mental health resolution to Staff by the weekend. Vice Chair Hum will also be taking over the Vote16 resolution from Commissioner Barker Plummer. Commissioner Utting will continue working on the resolution about Youth Commission compensation.

**B) Budget Advocacy**

Staff Zhan prefaces the discussion. Commissioner Barker Plummer starts off the conversation to state the Mayor’s Office and Board of Supervisor members do seem to prioritize school safety, but the Youth Commission needs to find out what the ask is. Commissioner Utting seconds that this issue is very important, so the Commission should follow up with CBOs to see where the funding is. Chair Loftus and Commissioner Pimentel both agree that the City needs to fund CBOs in order to have more violence prevention programs.

The Commission should also follow up with the Mayor’s office on the date and response to sexual assault and harassment in schools. Commissioner Barker Plummer will work with staff to look into the budget cut reasoning for the Department of Early Childhood. Commissioner Utting will continue the push and



advocate for school safety part, and Commissioner Barker Plummer will press on the accountability part.

**C) CEEC related news**

The next CEEC meeting will still take place on June 20th.

*No public comment.*

**7. Staff Report** (Discussion Item)

Staff Zhan met with Sacramento Youth Commission to understand how they compensate their Youth Commissioners and will send over the survey. Commissioner Utting emphasizes that it's important to bring this issue up earlier than later.

*No public comment.*

**8. Adjournment**

There is no further business. The meeting is adjourned at 5:50 PM.

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 students<sup>1</sup>; 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 belonging<sup>2</sup>; 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 Proposals<sup>3</sup>; and,

19 WHEREAS, A KidsData survey<sup>4</sup> 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,

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<sup>1</sup> "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>.

<sup>2</sup> "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>.

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

<sup>4</sup> "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 2020<sup>5</sup>; 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 purpose<sup>6</sup>; 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 students<sup>7</sup>; and,

9 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission recognizes the need for a larger investment  
10 in mental health services coming out of the pandemic<sup>8</sup>; 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 representation<sup>9</sup> and a  
13 disconnect between services and students, as students do not feel comfortable  
14 accessing the wellness centers<sup>10</sup>; 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 differences<sup>11</sup> ; and,

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<sup>5</sup> "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>.

<sup>6</sup> "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>.

<sup>7</sup> "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>.

<sup>8</sup> *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>

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

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

<sup>11</sup> 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 families<sup>12</sup>; 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 school<sup>13</sup>; 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.<sup>14</sup>

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup> “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.



1 [Lower San Francisco’s Legal Voting Age to 16 Years of Age]  
2 **Resolution requesting the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to place a Charter**  
3 **Amendment to lower the legal voting age in San Francisco Municipal and School**  
4 **District Elections on the November 2024 Election Ballot.**

5 WHEREAS, Allowing 16 and 17 year-olds the right to vote would engage and  
6 empower a whole new generation of people in the democratic process and instill the  
7 value of civic engagement and voting in young people; and,

8 WHEREAS, Allowing 16 and 17 year-olds to vote would demonstrate the value of  
9 their voices, opinions, and lived experiences to the democratic process, and add a  
10 greater diversity of voices to the electorate; and,

11 WHEREAS, By age 16, youth have developed the intellectual maturity for  
12 measured, non-rushed, and sufficient decision-making skills (i.e. “cold cognition”)  
13 needed for making responsible voting choices, according to research published by the  
14 American Psychological Association<sup>1</sup>; and,

15 WHEREAS, According to the Pew Research Center<sup>2</sup>, Countries such as  
16 Argentina, Austria, and Germany, that have (at least partial) voting rights for 16 and 17  
17 year-olds, all outrank the United States in voter turnout; and,

18 WHEREAS, Upon turning 16 or 17, young people are legally able to drive, work,  
19 pay taxes, be charged adult criminal charges, enlist in the military, and yet are denied  
20 the right to vote; and,

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<sup>1</sup> Steinberg, L. (2009). Are adolescents less mature than adults?. Are Adolescents Less Mature Than Adults? <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/amp-64-7-583.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> DeSilver, D. (2022). Turnout in U.S. has soared in recent elections but by some measures still trails that of many other countries. Pew Research Center.  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/11/01/turnout-in-u-s-has-soared-in-recent-elections-but-by-some-measures-still-trails-that-of-many-other-countries/>

1 WHEREAS, Research shows that allowing young people to vote at earlier ages  
2 increases voter turnout in future elections and further stimulate interest in getting more  
3 involved in local government affairs<sup>3</sup>; and,

4 WHEREAS, Research further shows that voting while still attending school  
5 encourages voting and electoral engagement to become a habit, and

6 WHEREAS, In 2005, resolutions adopted by both the San Francisco Youth  
7 Commission (Resolution No. 0405-013) and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
8 (File No. 051215) supported expanding suffrage to citizens of 16 years and older in City  
9 and County of San Francisco elections; and,

10 WHEREAS, In 2016, the San Francisco Youth Commission adopted Resolution  
11 No. 1617-AL-05 which supported California Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10,  
12 proposing to reduce the minimum voting age in California elections to 17; and,

13 WHEREAS, In 2016, 9 out of 11 San Francisco Supervisors voted to put File No.  
14 150267 (also known as "Vote16") onto the ballot, which became Proposition F, but lost  
15 by the close margin of 2.1% in the 2016 election; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2019, the San Francisco Youth Commission adopted Resolution  
17 No. 1819-AL-1, urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to lower San Francisco's  
18 legal voting age to 16 in municipal and school district elections, reaffirming the Youth  
19 Commission's support for Vote16; and,

20 WHEREAS, In 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously voted  
21 to put Vote16 on to the ballot, which became Proposition G, but lost by less than 1% in  
22 the 2020 election; and,

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<sup>3</sup> Elias Dinas (2012) The Formation of Voting Habits, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, 22:4, 431-456, DOI: 10.1080/17457289.2012.718280

1           WHEREAS, According to Section 4.124 of the San Francisco City Charter, the  
2 Youth Commission is tasked with identifying and proposing solutions to address the  
3 unmet needs and concerns of the youth of San Francisco, and

4           WHEREAS, The Youth Commission believes that young people’s ability to  
5 engage in electoral processes that directly impact their livelihood is a unmet need; and  
6 be it

7           RESOLVED, that the 2022-2023 Youth Commission reaffirms its commitment in  
8 advocating for the expansion of voting rights to youth aged 16-17 year olds in municipal  
9 and school district elections, and be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board  
11 of Supervisors to prepare a charter amendment to relevant sections of the San  
12 Francisco Charter allowing citizens, and possibly non-citizens, of 16 years of age and  
13 older to vote and register in municipal and school district elections held in the City and  
14 County of San Francisco.