

Board Resolution No. 02/20-21
San Mateo - Foster City School District
Resolution to Address the Perpetuation of the School to Prison Pipeline

WHEREAS, San Mateo-Foster City School District plays an integral role in shaping the lives of our youth, and thus our future community; and

WHEREAS, SMFCSD has an obligation to promote the healthy development of each one of its students, which includes protecting them from the impact of systemic racism to the greatest extent possible while they are at school; and

WHEREAS, SMFCSD is deeply committed to affirming the lives of our students and has been changing our institutional culture to align with that commitment and undo the normalization of inferiority and bias, as evidenced by the creation of Equity Task Force, Sanctuary Task Force, Special Education District Advisory Committee, and support of using an Ethnic Studies Curriculum; and

WHEREAS, from the 2012-13 school year through the 2019-20 school year, SMFCSD there were over 300 documented SRO contacts with students, with over 70 documented cases sent for prosecution, thereby introducing them to the criminal justice system and often inflicting institutional trauma; and

WHEREAS, the perpetuation of the school-to-prison pipeline is incompatible with our goal of creating safe, healthy, and equitable schools for all SMFCSD students; and

WHEREAS, the juvenile justice system involvement is not experienced equally across groups and youth of color are consistently over-represented at every stage, from arrest to incarceration, and disparate treatment of children of color compared with their white counterparts has been documented widely; and

WHEREAS, communities with high levels of youth incarceration typically also have higher rates of poverty and inadequate housing, health care, and other resources; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of the incidents that resulted in students being introduced into the criminal justice system at such a young age could have been more effectively addressed by school personnel, restorative practices, or other community-based services; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by school districts across the country, there are multiple resources and pathways available to ensure school safety without relying on school-based law enforcement officers.

SO, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: to fulfill its responsibility for undoing the systemic racism that Black children and children of color face, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") directs the Superintendent, upon approval of this Resolution, to terminate and redefine SMFCSD's contract with the San Mateo Police Department for the services of school resource officers, and thus remove all school resource officers from SMFCSD schools, by no later than August 17, 2020, the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to reallocate the funds previously used for school resource officers towards accomplishing the objectives set forth in this Resolution, such as increasing the number of District or school-based social workers, psychologists, restorative justice practitioners, other mental or behavioral health professionals, a District staff member dedicated to equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice within SMFCSD, unconscious bias training for teachers and staff, with the schools that will be transitioning out school resource officers receiving priority.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to utilize the transition period of distance learning to redefine school safety in SMFCSD through the lens of affirmative support of students, which shall include:

- (a) conducting deep listening sessions with administrators, teachers, and staff from the schools that will be transitioning out school resource officers to identify and prioritize their needs in supporting their students and school safety;
- (b) conduct deep listening sessions with our community members and grassroots community groups consisting of systems impacted individuals about their needs in ensuring their safety in school;
- (c) deeply examining the interaction between school community members and the San Mateo Police Department;
- (d) revising the SMFCSD safety plan with strategies for enhancing student learning, safety, and well-being through additional social/emotional supports, mental and behavioral health services, restorative practices, other wraparound supports to meet students' developmental needs, and community-level accountability structures; and
- (e) ensuring that we do not replace school resource officers with or staff our schools with any consistent presence of security armed with guns or any other law enforcement personnel.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED the Board directs the Superintendent to engage in a holistic view of discipline in SMFCSD by creating a bi-monthly public school discipline report that includes the following data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, age, and school:

- (a) The number of in-school suspensions of students
- (b) The number of out-of-school suspensions of students
- (c) The number of students handcuffed or restrained
- (d) The number of times District Administration or SMPD is called to schools and under what circumstances
- (e) The number of students who are ticketed or arrested

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board and the Superintendent will convene, by no later than September 31, 2020, an inclusive, community-driven process—involving parents, students, teachers, school administrators, student support staff, and other community members—for completing the following by December 31, 2020 in preparation for full implementation during the 2021-2022 school year:

- (a) drafting new SMFCSD response to discipline policy that prioritizes restorative practices, specifies when law enforcement is involved in on-campus disciplinary action, ensuring that students will no longer be ticketed, arrested, or referred to law enforcement while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event unless there are no other

available alternatives for addressing imminent threats of serious harm to members of the school community or school officials are otherwise obligated by law;

(b) modifying Board Policy 5145.11 that permits law enforcement to question students before informing a parent or guardian; and

(c) drafting a new Memorandum of Understanding that clarifies the ongoing, but more limited, role that the San Mateo Police Department will have in supporting SMFCSD personnel in the creation of safe, healthy, and equitable schools for all students.

(d) ensuring that all Board approved policies and Administrative Regulations related to student discipline are aligned with this resolution in fact and in spirit.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the San Mateo-Foster City School District at the regular meeting held on the 6th of August, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES

NOES

ABSENT

ATTEST:

Secretary to the Board of Trustees