Adopted by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of March 9, 2004

Subject: Resolution No. 43-9A1 (Resolution of Commendation)
In Support of the 4TH Annual Ethnic Studies Conference and Schools Not Jails
- Commissioners Eric Mar, Eddie Y. Chin
  and Student Delegate, Alan Wong

WHEREAS: The 4th Annual Ethnic Studies conference organized by Schools Not Jails will bring thousands of high school and college students together to promote the teaching of Ethnic Studies on April 2, 2004 at San Francisco State University; and

WHEREAS: Last year organizers brought together 2000 high school and college students, teachers and other educational justice activists to UC Berkeley to introduce students to college and reinvigorate the movement for Ethnic Studies and social justice teaching from pre-K to higher education; and

WHEREAS: This year the conference will take place at San Francisco State University, the historic birthplace of Ethnic Studies and Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) in the U.S. in 1968/69\footnote{From November 6, 1968 to March 21, 1969 the Black Student Union and the Third World Liberation Front organized the longest student strike in U.S. history. They were supported by progressive white students, the faculty union, and dozens of community-based groups. Ultimately, they were successful in establishing the College of Ethnic Studies which today houses the Asian American, Black, La Raza, and Native American Studies departments. The strike also resulted in the strengthening of student voice and power on the campus and funding for support programs for low income and Third World students.} and the only campus in the country with a College of Ethnic Studies; and

WHEREAS: This year California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed to eliminate outreach programs to low-income first generation potential college students and EOP at all California State University and University of California campuses in his January state budget proposal; and

WHEREAS: The dozens of educational justice and youth organizations participating in the gathering believe that there is a crucial need to challenge mainstream beliefs, values, and policies, 'to re-envision' history from the perspective of the historically oppressed communities in this country, and to provide an education that prepares students and communities to engage in social justice efforts in new and creative ways; and

WHEREAS: the California Legislature in 2002 passed AB 2001 - Ethnic Studies for California Public High Schools [Authored by Assemblyman Manny Diaz, a San Francisco State alumnus] which promotes Ethnic Studies courses as a standard part of California high school curriculum and advocates for Ethnic Studies courses as a means to teach respect for diversity and understanding of the various racial and ethnic groups in California. [The bill was vetoed by former Governor Gray Davis.]; and

WHEREAS: A relevant and enriched curriculum will contribute to greater interest in school for many students - one of the many educational solutions needed to help solve the truancy problem in SFUSD; and

WHEREAS: Ethnic Studies courses in high school have helped increase graduation rates and prevent 'drop outs' and for many conference attendees, this will be their first visit to a college campus where organizers will provide them with financial and academic workshops on enrolling in college; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Board of Education supports the 4th Annual Ethnic Studies Conference and commends Schools Not Jails and the many student and youth participants for their work in strengthening Ethnic Studies teaching and the movement for social justice in their communities.

Resolution of Commendation
3/9/04