54-SSO1 - Consideration of Schools and Programs for Possible Closure or Consolidation

REQUESTED ACTION: That the San Francisco Board of Education formally consider for closure or consolidation, with other schools, the following schools and programs for the 2005-2006 school year:

- Dr. William Cobb Elementary School
- Golden Gate Elementary School
- Malcolm X Academy
- New Traditions Elementary School
- Starr King Elementary School
- William R. De Avila Elementary School
- Benjamin Franklin Middle School
- Enola B. Maxwell Middle School
- John McLaren Child Development Center
- Yoey Child Development Center

In addition, staff will continue to provide information regarding possible closures, consolidations, or phase outs for subsequent years, including other under-enrolled elementary schools, middle schools and high schools, and other programs.

BACKGROUND: The Board of Education is in the process of exploring all options for closing a significant budget gap caused by increasing costs and inadequate revenues from the State. As part of its deliberations, the Board has convened multiple meetings – including two Committees of the Whole, two meetings of the Budget and Business Services Committee, one meeting of the Rules, Policy and Legislation Committee, and one Special Meeting of the Board – to consider various aspects of the issue of school closure and consolidation. Staff has provided information to the Board about schools that are currently under-enrolled and, informally, the Board has requested continued investigation into the implications of closing the elementary schools and middle schools listed above.

Staff has also been reviewing the budget and programmatic features of the Child Development Program (CDP) and is exploring ways to reduce the program’s encroachment on the Unrestricted General Fund. Among other findings, this examination has identified two CDP sites as significantly underenrolled, which results in higher per child expenditures to operate these sites than other CDP sites. These sites are noted in the list above.

Staff will arrange for public input meetings to be held in the communities of each of the schools or programs listed above. These meetings will be designed to ensure maximum opportunity for school communities to understand the school closure process and to provide input directly to Board members.

Implementation of the action requested here will be done in such a way that as to ensure compliance with the District’s legal obligations, including obligations related to the District’s desegregation Consent Decree.

Per the passage of Resolution 53-22SM1, School Consolidation Policy, the Board will take action on school closures for the 2005-2006 school year at its regular meeting on April 26, 2005.

Special Meeting
4/5/05