WHEREAS: The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is committed to disrupting the deterministic relationship between low socio-economic status students of color and their low academic achievement evident in District schools; and

WHEREAS: As documented in SFUSD’s *Excellence for All*, historical inequities in academic achievement persist in high concentrations for students who attend District schools in the southeast section of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS: Considerable and reliable research has shown that small (redesigned) autonomous schools demonstrate significant:
- Improved academic achievement for students, particularly students of color and low income students;
- Increased satisfaction among students, parents, educators and the larger school community;
- Higher attendance and graduation rates;
- Decreased school violence and disruptive behavior; and

WHEREAS: Small schools achieve these results with lower costs per graduate than larger schools which historically have sought to educate low income students of color; and

WHEREAS: A large movement for equitable small schools has already taken root in San Francisco through the work of parents, educators, and new school developers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Unified School District, in conjunction with school and community stakeholders, enter into comprehensive planning stages to begin a systemic move toward small, autonomous schools; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That such planning and creation of small, autonomous schools initially focus on serving students who are currently underserved in SFUSD schools, particularly those in the southeast section of San Francisco; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That such planning stages include (but not be limited to) the School District's commitment of one cabinet-level official to serve as both a community liaison and central administrator of this new small schools initiative, as well as the convening of a formal district small schools working committee representing major bargaining units, parents, students and central administration which will help guide the planning and implementation of a District autonomous small schools policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That in its efforts to implement this policy, the District will avail itself to the already offered opportunities to work with regional experts on small schools design from Stanford University and the Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the District strengthen its relationship with the University of San Francisco by working with the Center for Teaching Excellence and Social Justice to provide professional development opportunities for educators who will work at small autonomous schools, and by working with the newly forming USF Center for Small Schools, which is being developed with the express intention of assisting the District in implementing this major educational policy initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the District offset the costs inherent for planning, startup, and ongoing implementation of this small schools policy by obtaining funding grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Education Foundation and other organizations which financially support small autonomous school reform efforts.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to convene a small schools working group to be included as part of her High Schools Task Force and report back to the Board at a time certain.

1/8/02
2/26/02

Note: Referred to Curriculum & Program Committee by order of the Chair on 1/8/02
Old language stricken out ------- new language in italics and bold
Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 2/20/02. Recommendation to forward to the Board of Education for adoption.
Adopted, As Amended, by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of 2/26/02.