

Adopted by the Board of Education, as amended, at its Regular Meeting of October 13, 2015

Subject: Resolution No. 158-25A1

**In Support of Countering Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

- Commissioner Emily M. Murase, Ph.D. and Student Delegates Teresia Chen and Miguel Tantiado

**WHEREAS:** According to both the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (reauthorized in 2013) and the 2012 Californians Against Slavery and Exploitation Act, all commercial sex involving a minor is defined as human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS:** The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified San Francisco as 1 of 13 “High Intensity Child Exploitation Areas” in the country; and

**WHEREAS:** The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children testified before Congress that the average age of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) survivors is 11 to 13 for boys and 12 to 14 for girls, many of whom are recruited from middle and high schools; particularly vulnerable students are homeless, LGBTQ, unaccompanied minors, undocumented, in the foster youth system, and/or possess special education needs, and

**WHEREAS:** In 2014, President Barack Obama signed into law the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act that calls for states to adopt an interagency protocol to address commercial sex involving minors, emphasizing consultation and collaboration with schools and educational agencies as part of the formation of the protocol; and

**WHEREAS:** The same year, the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300 was amended to recognize child sex trafficking as a form of child abuse and that, therefore, sexually trafficked children fell within the jurisdiction of the child welfare system; the California Department of Social Services’ program for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) was established to provide funding to participating counties for training, prevention, and implementation of a CSEC protocol; and

**WHEREAS:** The City and County of San Francisco opted into the California Department of Social Service’s CSEC Program and the Human Services Agency Family and Children’s Services Division began to develop the city’s interagency protocol for responding to sexually trafficked youth that is expected to be completed by October 2015; and

**WHEREAS:** In January 2015, the US Department of Education issued the *Human Trafficking in America’s Schools Report*, which calls on school districts to 1) train staff to understand and identify human trafficking; 2) increase awareness about the issue among parents and students; and 3) develop a clear and comprehensive policy on responding to trafficking and CSEC; and

**WHEREAS:** Trafficked youth often do not recognize that they are human trafficking victims due a lack of understanding or denial of exploitation; and studies have indicated that 68% of CSEC survivors suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder with a documented increased risk of suicide and depression; and

**WHEREAS:** The US Department of Education reports that trauma from sexual exploitation impacts learning environment for CSEC survivors, often manifesting as behavioral problems due to low self-esteem, aggression, and truancy; and

**WHEREAS:** CSEC survivors often reject law enforcement and social services and require support and assistance from adults they trust, such as school administrators, teachers, counselors, social workers, nurses, other wellness and support staff who should therefore be trained in how to respond in a trauma-informed manner; and

**WHEREAS:** The California CSEC Model Interagency Protocol Framework urges educational agencies in each county to develop a mechanism for tracking CSEC as well as responding to exploited youth's educational needs, such as enrollment, truancy, and credit completion; and schools should have a clear procedure for coordinating CSEC response with other public agencies, such as the Police Department, District Attorney's Office, and Child Welfare Services; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2004, the Board of Education previously passed Resolution No. 45-25A16 to request that training be made available to school district staff on harassment, assault, abuse identification, and mandatory reporting; and

**WHEREAS:** The San Francisco Unified School District has already initiated training to staff at each of the high school Wellness Centers and student support staff pre-K – 8 on signs of and resources to address child sex trafficking and is a standing member of the Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking as well as the Human Services Agency Interagency CSEC Program Steering Committee; and

**WHEREAS:** Building on existing SFUSD initiatives to counter teen dating violence and bullying, students can play an important role in helping to identify CSEC among their peers; already, the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, composed of representatives from each of the high schools; Peer Resources; and the Wellness Center Youth Outreach Workers have demonstrated their effectiveness in reaching various groups of students.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District requests that the Superintendent and district staff work with community partners to add language to the existing Child Abuse Reporting Board Policy to address human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children and enforce a mandatory reporting protocol; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent and district staff, in consultation with community experts, develop and adopt a comprehensive training for all school administrators, teachers, counselors, social workers, nurses, and other wellness and support staff regarding the identification and mandatory reporting of human trafficking; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent and district staff, in consultation with community experts, develop and adopt an age appropriate unit to address healthy relationships and signs of human trafficking for inclusion in existing health curriculum; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent and district staff create a task force with community experts to work in consultation to incorporate an educational component of the history of "Comfort Women" of WWII under the Japanese military in its curriculum to educate the community about the harmful effects of sex trafficking in its historical and modern day context for the purpose of preventing and protecting the youth community from sexual exploitation and trafficking; and.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent and district staff engage student leaders to communicate the signs of and resources for human trafficking among their peers.

**Please Note:**

- Referred by order of the Chair on 8/25/15 to the Curriculum and Program Committee.
- Taken up by the Curriculum and Program Committee on 10/5/15. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation, as amended and with further amendments to be added by Dr. Murase, by general consent of the Committee.
- Adopted, as amended, 10/13/2015.

**8/25/15**

**10/13/15**