

Adopted by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of December 8, 2015

Subject: Resolution No. 1511-10A1

Honoring the Historical Contributions of Chinese Americans

- Commissioner Sandra Lee Fewer

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Unified School District has schools that represent the historic contributions of Chinese Americans in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS: These schools also represent the Chinese contribution to the national civil rights movement and racial integration of public education; and

WHEREAS: The largest population of students that attend San Francisco public schools are of Chinese descent; and

WHEREAS: Chinese comprise almost one third of the total population of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Board of Education recognizes and respects the works of early leaders of racial equity and social justice and San Francisco's long Chinese history and;

WHEREAS: There are three schools with particular reference and significance to Chinese American history and they are Yick Wo, Gordon J. Lau, and Spring Valley Elementary School; and

WHEREAS: Yick Wo is named in honor of the 1885 Supreme Court case of Yick Wo v Hopkins where a Chinese laundryman sued for the right to operate his laundry business and was the first case of the courts to use the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause to strike down a law that may be written to apply to everyone, but is enforced in unequal ways; and

WHEREAS: Gordon J. Lau was named in honor of the first Chinese Supervisor to serve on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS: Spring Valley Elementary School was the site of the 1887 California Supreme Court case of a Chinese American family who won the right for their children to attend San Francisco public schools and was the precursor to Brown v Board of Education and Spring Valley is also the oldest operating public school in California.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Superintendent of Schools will ensure that a plaque is placed on each of these schools recognizing their historic significance to the history of San Francisco and Chinese Americans; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the plaques be placed on the front of the schools in English and Chinese to educate the school population and the greater San Francisco population on the historic contributions of Chinese Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Superintendent of Schools is requested to work with District staff to require that these schools teach its student population about the history of its school; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Superintendent of Schools will advise District staff to consult with organizations such as the Chinese Historical Society of San Francisco, the San Francisco Chinese Cultural Center and the College of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley to create historically correct text for the plaque, in consultation with the principals of the schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the plaques are erected no later than March 1, 2016.

Please Note:

- **Referred by order of the Chair on 11/10/15 to the Budget and Business Services Committee.**
- **Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 12/2/15. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation by general consent of the Committee.**
- **Adopted on 12/8/15.**

11/10/15

12/8/15