

Adopted by the Board of Education, as an Amendment by Substitution, at its Regular Meeting of October 8, 2013

Subject: Resolution No. 136-25A3

Expanding A-G Course Offerings in SFUSD High Schools and Supporting A-G Course Development and Submission

- Commissioners Matt Haney and Jill Wynns

WHEREAS: The 21st century high school experience should include a broad and diverse set of course options that allow students to pursue their individual interests; and

WHEREAS: The SFUSD recently moved to A-G graduation requirements for all SFUSD students in the class of 2014 and beyond; and

WHEREAS: The large majority of courses that a student takes while in high school must be A-G approved courses; and

WHEREAS: In order for a course to be approved as meeting an “A-G” requirement, it must be approved by the University of California Office of the President; and

WHEREAS: SFUSD graduates will benefit in their college and career from the having of the experience of choosing their own courses and pursuing their individual interests; and

WHEREAS: The creativity and vast knowledge of our SFUSD teachers and staff provides tremendous potential to draw on in order to expand course offerings in SFUSD; and

WHEREAS: 21st century skills should be essential to any high school experience, and A-G approved Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) courses, particularly in technology, should be widely available for students; and

WHEREAS: San Francisco has a unique cultural, social and historical experience that should be reflected in our curriculum and course offerings; and

WHEREAS: Culturally relevant course offerings, including Ethnic Studies, have been shown to engage students in a way that other courses have not; and

WHEREAS: A diverse set of course options can be especially limited in our smaller high schools with enrollment under 600; and

WHEREAS: “European Literature,” “American Literature” and “AP English Literature and Composition” are the only English course options available in 11th and 12th grade at most SFUSD high schools; and

WHEREAS: Utilizing feedback and consultation from students about course offerings can help to increase student engagement; and

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WHEREAS: The “UC Curriculum Integration Institute” brings together high school educators and industry representatives to create innovative high school courses that “integrate the rigor of academics with the real world relevant of Career Technical Education” and then make these courses available for any high school to adopt; and

WHEREAS: “Interdisciplinary” or “multidisciplinary” courses can offer unique opportunities to help make learning more relevant and engaging for students; and

WHEREAS: A-G course approval requires an application to be submitted to the UC Office of the President and can be challenging for an individual teacher or principal to do without significant support from the district; and

WHEREAS: A-G course submission has been managed centrally, not by individual high schools, since 2010; and

WHEREAS: The SFUSD Department Curriculum and Instruction has recently updated and modernized our course coding system; and

WHEREAS: High school teachers and staff can benefit from access to course titles, outlines, syllabi and materials of courses taught at other high schools; and

WHEREAS: Students and families should be able to easily access information about course offerings at individual high schools; and

WHEREAS: QTEA has “Innovation Grants” that will go to individual schools and could be used by high schools for the purpose of expanding course offerings;

WHEREAS: Partnerships with City College of San Francisco, SF State, and online course providers can help to expand options available to SFUSD high school students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District requests that the District analyze and make recommendations to the Board about what resources, including release time, stipends, and extended hours, to support teachers, principals, and students in developing new A-G approved courses are needed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The staff will develop a plan for making the list of A-G approved courses available to high schools on an annual basis; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The staff will develop recommendations for policies and resources necessary to ensure an adequate range of A-G course options are available for all high school students; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The SFUSD will maintain and improve clear and streamlined processes for teachers and principals to develop a new course and obtain A-G approval; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The SFUSD will make available resources for workshops for teachers to support efforts to develop new A-G courses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The SFUSD will hold focus groups with students on an annual basis to identify student interests and needs that are not being met with current course offerings; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The SFUSD will survey students as part of the annual “Student Satisfaction Survey” on courses offerings and consider this information when choosing which courses to offer and/or develop; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The SFUSD will provide support for high schools in expanding A-G course offerings in English, Social Sciences, and Electives that are culturally relevant for SFUSD students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The SFUSD will emphasize broadening course offerings that are accepted in the A – F course sequence; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The SFUSD will support high schools in developing a greater variety of course options in English in 11th and 12th grade; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The SFUSD will provide A-G courses that include “21st century learning,” particularly in STEM fields; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The SFUSD will explore the creation of an “Innovation Fund,” to support teachers, principals and students in developing new courses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The SFUSD will explore opportunities for students to take courses offered at other public high schools to expand options for students, including online, central and/or community-based sites ; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The SFUSD will continue to update and modernize information systems to allow for adequate coding and labeling of new courses; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The SFUSD will establish an online “course catalogue” of courses offered at each high school and provide to the Board a plan to make this system accessible to students, families and the public; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The SFUSD will also develop a plan for the creation of an online database of syllabi and any relevant and available course materials of courses offered at SFUSD high schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Superintendent will report back to the Board of Education by March 30, 2014 on the progress made on expanding course offerings in SFUSD.

Please Note:

- **Referred on 6/25/13 by order of the Chair to the Curriculum & Program and Budget & Business Services Committees.**
- **Taken up by the Curriculum and Program Committee on 9/9/13. Amended and forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation by general consent of the Committee. Old language ~~stricken~~ out; New language in ***bold, italics, and underscored.*****
- **Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 9/19/13. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation by general consent of the Committee. Substitute motion forthcoming.**
- **Adopted, as an amendment by substitution, on 10/8/13.**

6/25/13

9/24/13

10/8/13