School District Boycotts Arizona Travel

June 24, 2010 (San Francisco) – Superintendent Carlos Garcia proposed, and the Board of Education (BOE) unanimously approved, a resolution prohibiting SFUSD from funding travel and/or attendance to conferences or meetings in the State of Arizona. The resolution was adopted on June 23 at the BOE’s general meeting.

The boycott is a response to the April 23, 2010 signing of Arizona’s Senate Bill 1070, which requires all law enforcement to investigate a person’s immigration status when there is a reasonable suspicion the person is in the country unlawfully, and the state of Arizona’s recent adoption of House Bill 2281, which prohibits public schools from teaching Ethnic Studies.

“These bills encourage racial profiling and violate our Fourteenth Amendment rights,” said Garcia.

Garcia noted that the Board of Education’s recent adoption of Resolution No. 101-26A in February of this year calls for an Ethnic Studies pilot program and the recruitment and retention of teachers who have relevant experience and educational background in the study and/or teaching of Ethnic Studies. This is a direction Garcia is proud of, but which the state of Arizona is opposing.

Garcia added, “As Dr. Martin Luther King said, ‘injustice anywhere is a threat to justice anywhere,’”

Each board member asked to have his or her name added to the resolution. The boycott is effective immediately.

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