Board of Education Unanimously Approves Budget

June 27, 2012 (San Francisco) – The San Francisco Board of Education unanimously approved a budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 and will submit a balanced budget to the State of California by the annual June 30 deadline.

The school district’s budget for next year totals $597 million in expenditures; however, state, local and federal funding will only bring in an estimated $567 in revenues. As a result of this gap, the district’s fund balance will be reduced by $30 million. If voters do not approve either of the tax initiatives on the ballot in November, SFUSD will have to make more cuts mid-year.

As was the case for the prior two school years, the district’s budget reflects the continued reduction of the school calendar by four days, totaling 176 instructional days (the current state minimum is 175).

“It is a disgrace to be in a state that doesn’t do everything humanly possible to fund education,” said Superintendent Carlos Garcia at the meeting. “We don’t like reducing the school year by four days – we already have one of the shortest school years of any industrialized nation in the world as it is.”

“While we wish we didn’t have to make any budget cuts, I’m grateful that we will be able to recall most of our laid off teachers and continue to provide our employees a competitive salary and benefits package relative to many other California districts. Ninety percent of our budget goes to people and we need our teachers, custodians, counselors, principals, cafeteria workers, school secretaries, nurses, principals, and those who hire, support and supervise them.”

The district’s budget assumptions are based on its current economic proposals to the teachers union and passage of the Governor’s tax initiative. However, SFUSD has not yet reached a settlement with the teachers union and is currently in mediation and the tax initiative won’t be voted on until November 2012.

School Board President Norman Yee commented on how difficult it is to create a budget “when we don’t know the true amount of money we’re going to have at the end of the day.”

##