

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

REVISED

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS BRUNNER, NADEL AND QUAN



A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2004 CLOSURE OF OAKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, We believe the decision to close five Oakland public elementary schools was made too quickly and did not give sufficient time for community input; and

WHEREAS, Closing a school is a traumatic event for the students, parents, and staff involved and should only be undertaken after careful study and consideration; and

WHEREAS, School District staff has estimated that each school closure will save the District about \$250,000 annually. Given the School District's budget of \$500 million, we do not believe that the disruption that will result from the closures is worth such a small savings; and

WHEREAS, The School District has no plans for the five vacant school sites and has not created a process to secure and maintain these properties. We are concerned that without such measures, the five sites will become magnets for crime and sources of neighborhood blight; and

WHEREAS, Each of the five schools has demonstrated academic improvement over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, In East Oakland, the three schools on the closure list (Luther Burbank, John Swett, and Toler Heights) are close to schools that are already overcrowded. We also understand that there is not sufficient room in nearby schools to comfortably accommodate all of the students whose schools will be closed; and

WHEREAS, Closing small schools while leaving others overcrowded seems contrary to the District's policy of creating new small autonomous schools; and

WHEREAS, The schools of East Oakland have historically been overcrowded, providing substandard conditions for many of Oakland's children; and

WHEREAS, Many Oakland schools remain above the state average in student population and the District's Long Term Facility Plan calls for bringing all schools to the state average; and

WHEREAS, We support the District's plan to eliminate portables on Oakland's campuses and encourage the District to move students out of portables and into schools that have excess capacity; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland City Council requests the reconsideration of the closure of Longfellow, Foster, John Swett, Toler Heights and Burbank Elementary Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council asks that the District consider adjusting boundaries or creating magnet programs in the schools scheduled for closing; and

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LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council requests that City and District staff begin discussions on the long term need for schools and finding sites for schools based on planned new development and demographic changes.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 16, 2004

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BRUNNER, CHANG, BROOKS, NADEL, REID, WAN, QUAN, AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST:

CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

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COUNCIL

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