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May 26, 2021

**By email only**

Superintendent Vincent Matthews  
San Francisco Unified School District  
555 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Superintendent Matthews:

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) writes to express our dismay and concern over the May 19 passage of the United Educators of San Francisco's (UESF) biased and factually inaccurate resolution titled "Resolution in Solidarity with the Palestinian People."

Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, ADL has now become a leading anti-hate organization. As we strive to fulfill our founding mission "to secure justice and fair treatment to all," our goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination, or hate.

The resolution is replete with inflammatory and counterfactual assertions and rhetoric about Israel, including blaming the recent outbreak of violence solely on Israel and questioning Israel's right to defend itself. There is no attempt to see the humanity of both sides to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, much less an acknowledgement of Israeli loss and pain from Hamas's deliberate and indiscriminate attempts to bomb Israeli civilian centers.

We recognize that this biased and polemical resolution, while an expression of free speech, is merely UESF's official position and not that of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). Nonetheless, at a time of [surging incidents of antisemitism](#), within a broader trend of [historically high levels of hate targeting the Jewish community](#), **it is incumbent upon District officials to issue a public statement distancing itself from the resolution and we ask that you do so without delay.**

Further, we ask that you **assure the safety of and right to free expression** by all students, parents, and district employees who are Jewish and/or Israeli, including those with family in Israel. It is critical that this **divisive resolution will not find its way into any classroom**, and that **SFUSD will not tolerate any resulting discrimination or harassment**. Indeed, any negative repercussions against Jewish and/or Israeli students from this resolution could well violate the anti-discrimination provisions of the Education Code, [in particular section 220](#), and subject the district to liability.

Thank you for your consideration of this serious matter, and we look forward to your response at your soonest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seth Brysk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Seth" being more prominent than the last name "Brysk".

Seth Brysk  
Regional Director