

City and County of
San Francisco



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President, Board of
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**Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin Statement
on SFUSD's Latest Delay to School Closures Plan**

This weekend, the press reported that Superintendent Matt Wayne and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) would be delaying the release of their school closures plan for at least another month. The reporting (which is how families and city officials found out about the latest delay) comes months after an increasingly stressful waiting period for the public to understand SFUSD's process, which has been marked with a lack of transparency and clear communication with both SFUSD parents and teachers. It also comes in the wake of the resignation of the Board of Education President Lainie Motamedi, whose expertise in management and fiscal oversight were widely considered to be valuable assets for SFUSD at a challenging time. Inexplicably, Mayor Breed chose to appoint a SFUSD staff who had been in charge of school closures to fill the vacated position.

Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, who has initiated many meetings with SFUSD leadership both during the pandemic and after to offer city support for its myriad issues, issued the following statement today in response to SFUSD's announcement:

"Our SFUSD families and teachers have been through an extraordinarily traumatic last few years, and many have struggled to recover a baseline amount of stability. By its own repeated admissions, SFUSD leadership has confirmed that this push to close schools isn't about addressing the District's financial crisis nor will it save the school district money. Oddly, SFUSD claims that this process has been about improving the school experience for teachers and students, yet all I have heard from parents and teachers is increasing anxiety and fear over the serious disruptions to their daily lives and their children's learning development. Even though the City and County does not have oversight over SFUSD, as Board President, I have routinely brought SFUSD officials together with our Controller's Office to see how we can support the administrative and financial issues facing the District and share our resources - and SFUSD has routinely declined our offers of support. This latest announcement to me is yet another example of how out of touch and unprepared SFUSD leadership is to take on such a significant shake-up, one that does not appear to be based in rational analysis of what's best for our families and teachers. While SFUSD could be focusing on teacher hiring incentives and the bare necessities to take care of the families we have now, they are instead contemplating closures that will lead to the loss of even more families. I stand by my offer of partnership and if SFUSD does not have the resources to conduct an effective plan, the City should and does have a role to play in taking over the planning and evaluation process with the resources at our disposal. Our families deserve much more after everything they've been through."

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