



COLEMAN ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A Voice for San Francisco's Children

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**Media Advisory
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SAN FRANCISCO FAMILIES CALL ON NEW SCHOOL BOARD TO ALLOW COMMUNITY INPUT INTO SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION PROCESS

Public School Parents to Present 1200 Postcards to New School Board

What: School Board Public Testimony

When: 7:00 pm, January 9, 2007

Where: 555 Franklin Street

Tonight as the new School Board meets for the first time, San Francisco families call on the new Board to involve them in the Superintendent selection process. July 2007 is the expected decision date to select a new permanent Superintendent of Schools, and with five months left and a new Board, San Francisco families demand to have public community meetings where parents, guardians and youth can voice what we want to see in our new Superintendent.

Parents from Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth's Project Public Education Equity collected over 1200 postcards from families agreeing that the public needs to be involved in the selection process. Families are concerned that the new Superintendent be a good match for San Francisco Unified's unique district. Terri Factora, parent of two public school children says, "to know that 1200 postcards were collected by only a handful of people leads me to think that there are really twice or three times as many families who also agree that community involvement should take place".

If the Board agrees to the families' demands to include them early in the selection process, it will be the first time the district decides to do so. Parents from Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth's Project Public Education Equity are hopeful that the Board will involve the parents of SFUSD children. The parent group requests to the Board include public community meetings around the city, extensive outreach for these meetings and using the input to help drive the Superintendent search. The new Superintendent will be in the district for possibly five years. Past Board member Sarah Lipson, soon to be a SFUSD parent this Fall, voiced her opinion when she said, "This may be the biggest decision the Board will make and one that will have great impact on public education for years to come. Absolutely the public voice should be included!" Families and community members look forward to working with the Superintendent selection committee in their search.

Parents will be available for media interviews.

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