



December 14, 2009

Ms. Jill Wynns
Ms. Rachel Norton
Mr. Norman Yee
Members, Budget Committee
SFUSD Board of Education
555 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Student Nutrition Program Budget

Dear Ms. Wynns, Ms. Norton and Mr. Yee:

We, parents of San Francisco Unified School District students, support a strong Student Nutrition Services program that serves the healthiest possible food to our children. We are aware that you are considering the SNS department budget at your December 15th meeting and are pleased to present this letter in addition to public comment you may receive in person. First and foremost, we strongly encourage you to support SNS and retain their current budget, despite our admittedly constrained budget climate. We believe that the school food changes made to date by SNS have resulted in a higher quality meal program that *disproportionately benefits low-income students* in our District.

Over the course of the last few years, SNS has struggled to make positive changes to the food program on a consistently limited budget. These changes form a foundation for a strong school food program and have been well-received by students. They include:

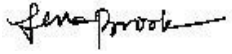
- Salad bars in middle and high schools, as well as several elementary schools;
- The introduction of higher quality foods like fruits and vegetables, and whole grains
- Making hot breakfasts available to students

Nutritious school meals for SFUSD students can contribute to improved test scores and academic performance, and fewer problems with absenteeism, tardiness, and poor discipline – all which connect to SFUSD's goals of closing the achievement gap in our District. An adequately funded SNS department **MUST** remain a priority for SFUSD.

A group of SFUSD parents formed the SF School Food Coalition this year to create a

community voice on the issue of school food in our district. For more information, please visit our website at sfschoolfood.org.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lena Brook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lena Brook

Founder
SF School Food Coalition
www.sfschoolfood.org

ON BEHALF OF: