

Reopening Timeline

This timeline in no way reflects the full scope of the year's activities. To identify key points in the timeline we reviewed publicly available sources, such as: BOE meeting agendas, recordings, presentations, social media, and published articles.

This timeline attempts to consolidate many of the important moments and events that shaped the trajectory of the BOE's planning efforts in response to COVID school closures.

We begin in May 2020 because, in the immediate aftermath of the declaration of the public health emergency of SARS-CoV-2, the top priority was to quickly pivot to distance learning across the entire school district, as well as provide tertiary support systems (needed technology, social and emotional support, meals, etc.) to a large number of students. This was, indeed, a Herculean effort, and we applaud the teachers and administrators who made it happen.



May 12, 2020 Superintendent Matthews announces formal Request for Proposal process to identify an outside partner to help facilitate reopening plan. The cost of hiring to be fully funded by outside donations.



Superintendent Matthews officially recommends Promise54 as an outside partner to help the district project manage the return to in-school learning using outside funding. The BOE rejects this opportunity.

Commissioner Collins states, "If it's not based on actual input that's authentic...I don't care about a plan, it doesn't matter." Superintendent Matthews calls the decision "a body blow."



The Board of Education shares its Fall Planning, 2020 presentation, identifying three phases of return: distance learning, hybrid model, and full return.



The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SDFPH) allows schools to begin reopening



The BOE Committee on Status of Reopening School delivers an update that includes **NO MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, OR CONCRETE OBJECTIVES.**



BOE advisory committee sends letters to principals at schools selected for renaming (who were not asked for input on name-change effort).



BOE discusses resolution to change Lowell admissions criteria for the 2020-21 school year only.



Principals at the 44 schools targeted for renaming are formally asked to brainstorm new names by December 18.



BOE approves one-year change to Lowell High School admissions.

BOE releases readiness dashboard so parents can monitor progress. The dashboard applies only to students in phase 2A

(3.5% OF SFUSD STUDENT POPULATION).



BOE approves formal plan and timeline to return approximately 10,000 students to school by January 25, 2021

(19% OF SFUSD STUDENTS)

BOE requests a new staff position, Strategic Policy and Project Manager, to "increase the Board's capacity to strategically plan, prioritize resources, and monitor implementation of Distance Learning, schools reopening and transition back to in-person learning that is responsive to changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic."



Superintendent Matthews officially recommends Promise54 as an outside partner to help the district project manage the return to in-school learning using outside funding.

THE BOE REJECTS THIS OPPORTUNITY.



BOE announces they will not achieve January 25th milestone, due to inability to reach a work agreement with UESF



Families for San Francisco releases Report on Renaming, highlighting the deeply flawed school renaming process.

Commissioners attend a yearly facilitated session to identify district priorities and clarify the values and goals that would **"drive our leadership attention, how we use our time, and our budgeting decisions."**

2 out of 7  commissioners declared school reopening as their top priority

JANUARY / FEBRUARY



Articles published nationwide question the SF BOE's actions and priorities, including: The New York Times, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Fox News, New York Post, Politico, The Washington Post.



BOE votes to approve resolution to rename 44 schools.



SFUSD announces in an email to parents that **"it is unlikely that most middle and high school students will return to in-person learning this school year."**



Attorney Paul Scott sends a letter to the Mayor re: potential legal action against the BOE for Brown Act Violations and due process in the renaming resolution.



BOE introduces resolution to permanently eliminate merit-based admissions at Lowell in response to a hate crime at Lowell. (SFUSD finds it does not reach the level of a crime and the investigation stalls)



San Francisco City Attorney's office, in collaboration with Mayor Breed, files suit against SFUSD in response to its lack of a legally mandated reopening plan stating, **"Respondents indicate that the District has a plan to make a plan."**



Board President López insists that efforts to rename schools and address racism are not delaying reopening schools, quoting Rev. Amos Brown: "we can pat our heads and rub our bellies at the same time."



BOE votes to permanently change the Lowell admissions policy.

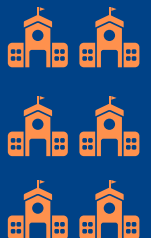
BOE spends two hours discussing and rejecting the candidacy of a well-qualified parent for one of 8 available volunteer spots on the Parent Advisory Council.



BOE cancels reopening plan vote to address current and pending litigation (on renaming)



Superintendent Matthews announces that 6 SFUSD elementary schools have completed public health inspections.



6 SFUSD SCHOOLS

2021
Feb 18

Two SFUSD parents and Families for San Francisco members launch **Better Public Schools to push for a new way of selecting the SF BOE** through exploring an amendment to the city charter.



2021
Feb 20

Two SFUSD parents launch a campaign to **recall three members** of the Board of Education. As of March 17, over 8,000 people have joined their movement.

8,000 people!



2021
Feb 21

BOE places the school **naming plan on hold** and declares reopening their only focus. Board President López says, **"We need to prioritize reopening"**

2021
Feb 23

Newly-elected Commissioner Matt Alexander **admits**, **"I just learned...that the current negotiation around the MOU doesn't even include middle school and high school, and that was rather disturbing to me. That process needs to start immediately."**

2021
Mar 5

Limited reopening **plan** announced for some schools by April 12. The plan misses the **state timeline** potentially forfeiting state funds earmarked for schools that resume in-person instruction by March 31.

Phase A (26%) may begin returning April 12th

Phase 2B (10%) may return sometime later in April

3rd-5th graders (20%) received surveys March 9th to assess their interest in possibly returning in late April.

2021
Mar 10

Superintendent Matthews **announces his June 30th retirement, stating "There are many new commissioners on the San Francisco Board of Education and I want them to have the opportunity to select a new superintendent who is aligned with their approach."**

2021
Mar 11

BOE votes to approve plan.

SFUSD **commits** to in-person learning in the fall

2021
Mar 13

UESF votes to approve plan

2021
Mar 15

Decreasing the Distance sends a **letter** signed by 7 supervisors urging the BOE/SFUSD to commit to 5 full days of learning in the Fall.

2021
Mar 16

Commissioner Collins reminds a speaker to refer to learning loss from distance learning as **learning change**.

UESF president Susan Solomon cautions families to have **"realistic expectations"** and **"maybe it won't be full-day, five days a week"** in the fall

2021
Mar 17

SFUSD publishes an **updated timeline** for PK-5 with some dates clarified.

Still only **6 SFUSD schools approved** for reopening by SFDPH, 75 letters of interest submitted.

2021
Mar 24

14 SFUSD Schools approved for reopening.

City Struggles with anti Asian tweets by Commissioner Collins.