



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER SAM HINDI

City of Foster City

June 18, 2020

Dear President Corzo, Vice President Chin, Trustees Hitchcock, Watkins and Proctor,

I'm writing you today to ask for your support of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). I have spoken to each one of you over the years and I know how important equities in education and our society at large are for you. The recent event in our nation highlighted the inequities that still exist in our nation. During an event in San Mateo, Trustee Watkins eloquently stated the system is working as it was designed to work. I could not agree more, students of color are marginalized when it comes to learning in schools about their history and contributions to our nation. Today, you have the opportunity to influence the system to be more just, more inclusive, and more equitable.

Ethnic studies courses have shown to improve test scores of students of color and their white peers, and they help establish a deeper dialogue about race relations, justice, and democracy in a multiracial society. I urge you to approve ethnic studies so our students would explore deeper knowledge and multiple cultural perspectives and contributions of their communities.

I was disheartened to learn, when my three children attended the SMFC schools that ethnic studies were not included in the curriculum. There is nothing more powerful than information and knowledge to bring about understanding between people from different ethnicities.

By statute, [AB 2016](#) authorized the State Board of Education to adopt a Model Curriculum for Ethnic Studies by March 31, 2020. Current controversy to remove Arab American Studies from the Model Curriculum or to continue to delay implementation of ESMC, as opponents of Ethnic Studies argue, are unacceptable. I unequivocally condemn Islamophobia, racism and xenophobia. Moreover, I urge support for the prompt realization of the promise of AB 2016, to redouble on the original intent of this curriculum to uplift equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations for education.

San Mateo-Foster City School District (SMFCSD) has long advocated for equity, and I am proud to see your district consider this tonight. Ethnic Studies courses offer profound academic and social value to students of all races and ethnicities. On matters of race and ethnicity, please act boldly and join me in championing educational justice. Please vote unanimously to adopt this resolution tonight.

Sincerely,

Sam Hindi

Sam Hindi
City of Foster City
Councilmember