

Discord Meets Democracy

May 25, 2021

When it comes to public schools, “no city has experienced the level of discord as that in San Francisco,” reports *The Washington Post*.

That’s because, as *The Post* posits, “the San Francisco school board has been operating” with “a heavy focus on controversial, difficult racial issues, and slow progress on school reopening.”

Thankfully, San Franciscans have launched a recall campaign against three members of the seven-member school board: President Gabriela López, Vice President Faauga Moliga and Commissioner Alison M. Collins.

A sampling:

- “In January, the school board voted to rename 44 schools” with purported “connections to slavery, oppression and racism” — though *The Post* notes “the alleged ties were thin or, in some cases, historically questionable or inaccurate.”*
- One of the most controversial moves by the board was “[c]hanging the admissions process for the elite Lowell High School — eliminating grades and test scores and admitting students by a ranked-choice lottery.” As *The Post* explains, “the change means that students with the best grades and scores may



not be admitted.”

- The school board removed Commissioner Alison Collins as Vice President in March, after her anti-Asian tweets from 2016 came to light. She called Asian Americans (who happen to *disproportionally* earn entry to Lowell) “house n****rs” who employed “white supremacist thinking to assimilate and ‘get ahead.’”**

“Through all this, the city’s school buildings remained closed,” notes *The Post*, “even as private schools in the area and public schools elsewhere in the region operated in person.”

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The best thing for public education in Frisco will be to school these “first” recall targets in the power of the citizenry.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

* Facing a lawsuit, the board voted unanimously to rescind their renaming of those “injustice-linked” schools” — just a few months after the original vote.

** In response, Collins is suing the board for \$87 million.