



Proposed Renaming of the Community Learning Center in Honor of Eugene R. Mullin

South San Francisco Unified School District Meeting, July 15, 2021

Presented by Valerie Sommer, Library Director



Eugene (Gene) R. Mullin
April 21, 1937 – April 5, 2021

Proposed Renaming



- ▶ A public request was made to honor Eugene R. Mullin's contributions to the SSF community by renaming the Community Learning Center in his honor
- ▶ The family, led by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Kevin Mullin, is in favor of this honor.
- ▶ The CLC building is owned by the South San Francisco Unified School district and the current agreement ends in 2029.
- ▶ Gene was a long time school district teacher and a strong advocate for learning opportunities and the distinct partnership provided by City staff via CLC afterschool homework programs/learning hub as well as support for local families.

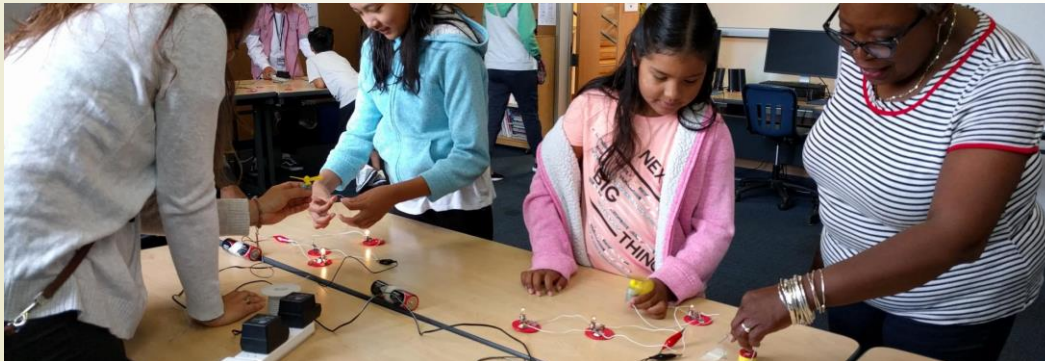


Community Learning Center



Community Learning Center

- ▶ Created to serve educational needs of SSF residents with input from community, SSF City and SSFUSD staff and local organizations
- ▶ Located on the Spruce Elementary School campus
- ▶ Opened March 21, 2001 after a year at a temporary site
- ▶ Focuses on:
 - ▶ Family support
 - ▶ ESL classes
 - ▶ Literacy programming
 - ▶ Afterschool homework programs
- ▶ Prior to his passing, Gene designated the CLC for any memorial donations in his honor following his death.



Gene's Contributions to South San Francisco

- ▶ Social Studies teacher at South San Francisco High School for 32 years
- ▶ South San Francisco City Council member, 1995 - 2002; Mayor in 1998 and 2002
- ▶ South San Francisco Planning Commissioner, 1972 – 1980
- ▶ Co-founded the joint City/SSFUSD Youth Government Day program
- ▶ Strong advocate and participant in the planning and launching of the Community Learning Center
- ▶ Served on the Boards of: Ability Path, HIP Housing, South San Francisco Public Library Foundation, San Mateo County Historical Society, BayBio, Families on Track (at Parkway Heights Middle School), and Seton Medical Center
- ▶ Elected to the California State Assembly, 19th District, serving from 2002 - 2008
 - ▶ Chair, Housing Committee
 - ▶ Chair, Assembly Education Committee



Highlights of Public Service



City Council

- ▶ Participated on many City Council subcommittees, including Council liaison to the South San Francisco School District, Aircraft Noise Insulation Program, Oyster Point Advisory, and Kaiser Hospital
- ▶ Influential role in creating the South San Francisco Community Learning Center and increasing the number of community child care centers
- ▶ Active on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area Bioscience Center and Families on Track
- ▶ Strong supporter of Workforce Housing and the First Time Homebuyers program
- ▶ Co-founded and Coordinated the annual Youth in Government Day Program

State Assembly

- ▶ Authored 3 bills to support childcare including creating an incentive for developers to include childcare, increasing the number of children family day care homes can care for, and extending the childcare tax credit for employers.
- ▶ Authored 2 bills improving education opportunities, one to allow websites to be developed by students and another to ensure GED test prep is available to incarcerated youths.
- ▶ Authored two bills allowing CalSTRS members to earn a longevity bonus and helping local school districts with 403(b) investments to assist teacher financial security
- ▶ Repeatedly advocated to extend the right to vote to 17-year-olds turning 18 by the General Election



History Connections



- ▶ Longstanding member of the Historical Society of South San Francisco
- ▶ Was honored with the 2010 Victor John Feudale Award from the Historical Society of South San Francisco, for outstanding service to the South San Francisco community and his advocacy, support and preservation of local history
- ▶ Master of Ceremonies for the Historical Society of SSF's Annual Awards and Fundraising Banquet for over 20 years
- ▶ Board member, San Mateo County Historical Association
- ▶ Member of the South San Francisco Historical Preservation Commission from 1986-1992
- ▶ Gene was involved in several local history initiatives including: an update of the South San Francisco Once-Upon-A-Time Coloring Book, given to every third grade student in the District; a celebration of 100 years of SSFUSD high school education; a compilation of renowned SSF personalities as well as personalities memorialized in SSF facilities.



Awards & Recognitions



- ▶ San Mateo County "Teacher of the Year", 1991
- ▶ California Teachers Association's State Teacher of Year in Politics, 1996
- ▶ Liberty Bell Award, San Mateo County Bar Assn., 1990
- ▶ Excellence in Teaching Award, Mason-McDuffie Foundation, 1996
- ▶ Mentor Teacher, SSFUSD, 1985-1999
- ▶ Named "Legislator of the Year" by over two dozen organizations while he served in Sacramento, including the 2005 award from the League of California Cities
- ▶ Educational Video of the Year: Child Abuse in the U.S., 1981 (co-author)
- ▶ USF Alumnus of the Year, 2011
- ▶ Riordan High School, first Alumnus of the Year, 2010

Going forward with this naming opportunity would honor the life and legacy of one of South San Francisco's most outstanding teachers, civic leaders, Council members and State legislators

