

**MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Fresno Unified School District
August 23, 2017**

**Fresno, California
August 23, 2017**

Office of the Board of Education, Fresno Unified School District Board Room, Education Center, 2309 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on August 23, 2017, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills and President Ashjian. Interim Superintendent Nelson was also present.

President Ashjian convened the Regular Board meeting at 4:32 p.m. in the Board room and Adjourned to Closed Session address items 1 and 7. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:12 p.m.

Prior to adjourning into Closed Session, Board President Ashjian made the following statement:

“Two of the parties in the case identified on the agenda as Closed Session Item No. 7 are business entities with which I have an indirect financial relationship. Therefore, pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270, I will be removing myself from Closed Session during the discussion of Item No. 7.”

Staff Present

Deputy Superintendent/CFO Quinto, Chief Academic Officer Mecum, Chief Human Resources/Labor Relations Officer Idsvoog, Chief Operations Officer Temple, Chief Information Officer Arias, Chief Technology Officer Madden, Executive Director of Constituent Services Plascencia, and Executive Director of Student Services Dorsey, Equity and Access Analyst Bonilla, and Interim Chief of Staff David Chavez.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- By a vote of 7-0-0-0, the Board took action to promote Kim Kelstrom, Director, Fiscal Services to Executive Officer, Fiscal Services.
- By a vote of 7-0-0-0, the Board took action to promote David Jansen, Director, Technology Services to Executive Director (General) Data Science and Application Systems, Technology Services.
- By a vote of 7-0-0-0, the Board took action to promote Santino Danisi, Director, Fiscal Services to Executive Officer, State and Federal Programs.
- The Board was informed of the lateral assignment of Heather Allen, Director, School Readiness to Director, College Readiness.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Campus Culture Manager Leslie Loewen led the flag salute.

Leslie Loewen introduced the 2017/18 class of Student Advisory Board Members.

APPROVE Minutes

Approved as recommended, with a minor name correction, the draft minutes for the May 17, 2017 Regular Meeting. Member Jonasson Rosas moved for approval, seconded by Member Johnson, which carried a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills and President Ashjian.

HEAR Report from Interim Superintendent

- Expressed his joy and honor to be selected as the finalist for the Superintendent position and thanked the Board of Trustees for their continued support.
- Reflected on a fantastic start of the school year and expressed gratitude to the teachers, staff and administrators who are setting the tone for a successful start to the school year.
- Updated the public on two projects: eLearn Academy and dual immersion. The district launched its first online school, eLearn Academy, which offers personalized, rigorous and accredited online courses for students in grades 7 to 12 who need flexible attendance options. The students have personalized instruction with access to teachers through chat, email, phone and Skype or they can drop by the academy to get support as needed. He thanked Tom Nixon and Yolanda Jimenez-Ruiz for their hard work in making eLearn happen. Dual immersion programs have expanded to Greenberg Elementary, Rowell Elementary, Wawona School and McLane High schools. Greenberg Elementary is home to the district's first Hmong dual immersion curriculum. The district's dual immersion program model is research-based and one of the most effective ways of meeting the needs of English Learner students as well as other students who want to become literate in another language.
- Thanked Kaiser Permanente for the \$90,000 grant that provided water hydration stations at all of the district's middle schools, providing students access to cold, filtered water throughout the day. Kaiser also donated free reusable water bottles to all of the district's middle school students.
- Shared that he had a positive and productive meeting with several members of our local LGBTQ community to work together in supporting all students on school campuses. During the meeting, everyone discussed developing a framework to ensure all LGBTQ students feel safe at Fresno Unified Schools. The plans include further supporting and expanding current Gay Straight Alliance clubs on school campuses, identifying staff members at secondary school sites who would receive unique training in order to support LGBTQ students, pursuing additional training for staff to serve transgender students separate from gay, lesbian and bisexual students and exploring a partnership with local community organizations to resurrect a 1-800 call line to provide additional support for LGBTQ students.
- Thanked the many community members who took the time to come to the meeting and share their opinions and urged everyone to show civility and mutual respect for each other. Reminded everyone that we are all an example for children in our district and that providing a safe place for all starts right here in the board room.

On a motion by Member Davis, seconded by Member Mills, the consent agenda, exclusive of agenda item: A-4, A-6, A-8, A-9, A-10, A-12, A-19 and A-20 which were pulled for further discussion, was approved on a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills and President Ashjian.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- A-1, APPROVE Personnel List**
APPROVED as recommended, the Personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.
- A-2, ADOPT Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Board**
ADOPTED as recommended, the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the August 9, 2017 Regular Board meeting.
- A-3, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Career Technical Education Credential Holders**
ADOPTED as recommended, waiver request for Career Technical Education (CTE) Credential holders for English Learner Authorization until CTE program is completed.
- A-4, APPROVE Service Agreement with ShotSpotter, Inc. to Support Expansion of ShotSpotter Coverage Area, in Conjunction with Fresno Police Department**
APPROVED as recommended, a three-year service agreement with ShotSpotter, Inc. for the gunshot location system used by the Fresno Police Department. On February 24, 2016 the Board approved a three-year service agreement with ShotSpotter, Inc. for three square miles. This agreement will increase the total square miles paid for by the District to six square miles and starts a new three-year term to begin upon the go-live date of the new expansion area. The annual cost for six square miles is \$333,334.

Community Members who spoke to this item:

Kiera Kaiser, student from Manchester Gate – Is not in support of the district paying for ShotSpotter. The police department should pay for our safety and the district should be in charge of the student's education. The money could be better spent on supplies or other educational things.

Andrew Fabela – Is a great tool and the \$10 million that the district has come into will definitely cover that cost.

Miguel Bibanco – Does not support the district paying for ShotSpotter. Believes that ShotSpotter should only be paid by the police department.

Va Her – Spoke about the needs for supports in the classroom instead of spending money on ShotSpotter.

For the record, comments/questions were made about concerns with the cost of ShotSpotter, can we share costs with our community partners, clarity on the cost and the term of the contract, where is the money coming from, what are the current areas covered and what will be included in the expansion, who and what was used to determine the areas, are schools other than Fresno Unified included, do we have other districts or the county who are participating in this agreement with ShotSpotter, would expansion plans change if

not approved this evening, support for ShotSpotter as a good tool, safety for our students, and reduces the time that students are in lockdown. Interim Superintendent Nelson, Fresno Police Chief Dyer, and Fresno Mayor Brand were able to provide clarification. Member Mills moved for approval, seconded by Member Johnson, which carried a 5-2-0-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Johnson, Mills, and President Ashjian. NOES: Board Members: De La Cerda and Jonasson Rosas.

A-5, APPROVE Agreement with Law Office of Rick Jensen for Subrogation Services
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with the Law Office of Rick Jensen which provides subrogation services for the district's workers' compensation, liability and health internal service funds.

A-6, APPROVE 2017/18 Consolidated Application for Categorical Aid Programs Spring Release to the California Department of Education
APPROVED as recommended, The Consolidated Application (Con App) which is the tool used by the California Department of Education (CDE) to distribute funds from federal programs to school districts across California. The funds received from this application enable us to serve students through activities described in each school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and in the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

For the record, comments/questions were made regarding the clarity of the item, what does it mean, what does it do, and what activities will these funds be used for? CFO/Deputy Superintendent Ruth F. Quinto was able to provide clarification. Member Cazares moved for approval, seconded by Member Davis, which carried a 7-0-0-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, and President Ashjian.

A-7, APPROVE Comprehensive Safe School Plans for 2017/18
APPROVED as recommended, the 2017/18 Comprehensive Safe School Plans for all schools. The Plans support a safe learning environment for students and staff and are organized to align with the California Standardized Emergency Management System. The Comprehensive Safe School Plans are an annual item, updated in coordination with school site administration and presented to the Board for approval at the beginning of each school year.

A-8, APPROVE Second Amendment to Lease Agreement for Property Located at 850 N. Blackstone Avenue
APPROVED as recommended, is the second amendment to the lease agreement with Specific Properties, LLC for the building located at 850 N. Blackstone Avenue in Fresno, which houses Parent University and the Early Learning Department. On September 26, 2012 the Board approved an amendment extending the original lease to September 30, 2017. The recommended amendment extends the lease to September 30, 2022. All other provisions of the lease remain the same including a 90-day termination option for the district. The current rental rate is \$8,777.44 per month which will continue through

September 30, 2017. Starting October 1, 2017, and every October thereafter, there will be a 2% annual increase.

For the record, comments/questions were made regarding the rental rate, would it be cheaper to purchase a building, are there other locations that have the potential to house these programs, would we be displacing the programs that are there currently, and what is the square footage of the building, Chief of Operations Karin Temple was able to provide clarification. Member Cazares moved for approval, seconded by Member Mills, which carried a 7-0-0-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, and President Ashjian.

A-9, APPROVE Award of Bid 17-27R, A-B, Edison and Roosevelt High Schools Tennis Courts Improvements Rebid

APPROVED as recommended, Bid 17-27R, consisting of two bid sections, to construct new tennis courts at Edison and Roosevelt High Schools. The project will replace existing deteriorated asphalt tennis courts with new post-tensioned concrete courts, for increased longevity and playability, and reduced maintenance. Site accessibility improvements are also included.

Staff recommends award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder:

Section A	Roosevelt	Davis Moreno Construction, Inc.	Fresno, CA	\$1,359,317
Section B	Edison	Davis Moreno Construction, Inc.	Fresno, CA	\$1,786,784

Board President Ashjian made the following statement regarding Agenda Item A-9:

“Davis Moreno Construction is the vendor identified in Agenda Item A-9. I have been a subcontractor for Davis Moreno on Construction projects not involving Fresno Unified and therefore, I have a conflict as result of my indirect financial interest in the bids this vendor submits to Fresno Unified. However, because I began providing services to Davis Moreno Construction more than 5 years prior to my election to this Board, my conflict is remote and therefore, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

For the record, there were no comments/questions. Member Davis moved for approval, seconded by Member De La Cerda, which carried a 6-0-1-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, and Mills. ABSTENSIONS: Board President Ashjian.

A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Shift3 Technologies for Public Facing School Websites

APPROVED as recommended, Included in the Board binders is a contract with Shift3 Technologies to enhance our existing Fresno Unified website. This will allow LCAP Reports, School Expenditure Plans, School Accountability Report Cards, and CORE Index Reports to be accessible by school, instead of going through four different report areas. The Interim Superintendent recommends approval. Fiscal impact: Sufficient funds are available in the Information Technology General Fund in the amount of \$45,541. Contact person: Kurt Madden, telephone 457-3868.

For the record, comments/questions were made regarding concerns that our schools websites are outdated, it needs to be more user friendly, what is Shift3 Technologies providing the district and what does our IT department takes care of and will it be required to engage in this vendor again to maintain on-going work. Chief Technology Officer Kurt Madden was able to provide clarification. Member Mills moved for approval, seconded by Member Jonasson Rosas, which carried a 7-0-0-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, and President Ashjian.

A-11, APPROVE Provisional Internship Permits

APPROVED as recommended, Included in the Board binders are Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) recommendations to rehire or hire upon Board approval. The Interim Superintendent recommends approval. Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal impact to the district. Contact person: Paul Idsvoog, 457-3548.

A-12, APPROVE Fresno County Cradle to Career Partnership

APPROVED as recommended, The Cradle to Career (C2C) Partnership for Fresno County is a community-wide partnership of public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders who are organizing efforts and resources around building a shared community vision that all Fresno County youth will realize success and good health at every age, from cradle to career. The Interim Superintendent recommends approval. Fiscal impact: Sufficient funds in the amount of \$50,000 are available in the Unrestricted General Fund. Contact person: David Chavez, telephone 457-3566

For the record, comments/questions were made regarding the budget, who is participating in the partnership, and who is the leading agency. Interim Superintendent Nelson was able to provide clarification. Member Cazares moved for approval, seconded by Member Mills, which carried a 7-0-0-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, and President Ashjian.

A-13, DENY Claim #17-0725-0246

DENIED as recommended, Included in the Board binders is a Claim for Damages by a Minor, case #17-0725-0246. The Interim Superintendent recommends that the Claim be denied and the matter referred to the district's Director of Benefits and Risk Management for further handling. Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal impact to the district. Contact person: Ruth F. Quinto, telephone 457-6226.

A-14, DENY Claim #17-0725-0247

DENIED as recommended, Included in the Board binders is a Claim for Damages by Travis Manzo, case #17-0725-0247. The Interim Superintendent recommends that the Claim be denied and the matter referred to the district's Director of Benefits and Risk Management for further handling. Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal impact to the district. Contact person: Ruth F. Quinto, telephone 457-6226.

A-15, DENY Claim #17-0725-0248

DENIED as recommended, Included in the Board binders is a Claim for Damages by Victoria Manzo, case #17-0725-0248. The Interim Superintendent recommends that the

Claim be denied and the matter referred to the district's Director of Benefits and Risk Management for further handling. Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal impact to the district. Contact person: Ruth F. Quinto, telephone 457-6226.

A-16, RATIFY Agreement with Delta TeamCare for WellPath Services

RATIFIED as recommended, Included in the Board Binders is an agreement with Delta TeamCare to provide WellPath administrative services related to the district's health plan. The Interim Superintendent recommends ratification. Fiscal impact: Sufficient funds are available in the health internal service fund. Contact person: Ruth F. Quinto, telephone 457-6226.

A-17, RATIFY Grant Application to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for the 2017 Citizenship Assimilation Grant Program

RATIFIED as recommended, Ratification is requested for a grant application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for the 2017 Citizenship Assimilation Grant Program. The Interim Superintendent recommends ratification. Fiscal impact: Potential grant award is \$250,000 over two years. Contact person: Kim Mecum, telephone 457-3731.

A-18, RATIFY Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Reading and Beyond

RATIFIED as recommended, Ratification is requested for an independent contractor services agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Reading and Beyond. This agreement was a continuation of a comprehensive literacy intervention program for students identified by Fresno Unified who were enrolled at Yokomi, Lowell and Jefferson Elementary, along with their K-12 household members. Additionally, students were identified at each school site for support by the school principal. The Interim Superintendent recommends ratification. Fiscal impact: Sufficient funds in the amount of \$691,435 have been set aside in the Title I budget for the Reading and Beyond Agreement. Contact person: David Chavez, telephone 457-3566.

A-19, RATIFY Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Fresno County EOC/Street Saints

RATIFIED as recommended, Included in the Board binders is an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Fresno County EOC/Street Saints ("Fresno Street Saints") to provide a community presence at Edison High School, Gaston Middle School, Roosevelt High School, Tehipite Middle School and the Early Learning Center. The Interim Superintendent recommends ratification. Fiscal impact: Funding of \$335,000 is available in the 2017/18 Safety and Security budget. Contact person: Karin Temple, 457-3980.

Prior to the vote board member Jonasson Rosas made the following statement:

"Fresno EOC is the vendor for Independent Contractor Services Agreement as stated in item A-19. I am employed by Fresno EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation. I did not participate in making these contracts and, therefore, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270."

For the record, comments/questions were made regarding agreement, is this an extension of an agreement or is this a new agreement, what was the cost in the previous school year,

does Street Saints provide similar programs to other schools without district funding, how is this contract paid out, and a suggestion to look into offerings for Fort Miller. Interim Superintendent Nelson and Street Saints Executive Director Brian King were able to provide clarification. Member Cazares moved for approval, seconded by Member De La Cerda, which carried a 6-0-1-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Mills, and President Ashjian. ABSTENSIONS: Jonasson Rosas.

A-20, RATIFY Purchase Orders from May 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017

RATIFIED as recommended, Included in the Board binders is information on purchase orders issued from May 1, 2017, through June 30, 2017. Purchase orders for \$10,000 or more are presented first, followed by purchase orders for less than \$10,000. A list of purchase orders issued for Associated Student Body (ASB) accounts is also provided. The Interim Superintendent recommends ratification. Fiscal impact: Funding is noted on the attached pages. Contact person: Karin Temple, telephone 457-3134.

Prior to the vote Board President Ashjian made the following statement:

“Davis Moreno Construction is a vendor included in the Purchase Orders for May 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. I have been a subcontractor for Davis Moreno Construction on other projects not involving Fresno Unified and therefore, I have an indirect financial interest in this vendor’s purchase orders. However, because I began providing services to Davis Moreno more than 5 years prior to my election to this Board, my conflict is remote. Therefore, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

Prior to the vote Board Member Jonasson Rosas made the following statement:

“Fresno EOC is the vendor for purchase order number 459523 as stated in item A-20. I am employed by Fresno EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation. I did not participate in making these contracts. Because of my employment with Fresno EOC, I have a remote financial interest in these contracts and, therefore, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

For the record, there were no comments/questions. Member Davis moved for approval, seconded by Member Johnson, which carried a 5-0-2-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, and Mills. ABSTENSIONS: Board Members: Ashjian and Jonasson Rosas.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Francine and Murry Farber – Spoke about their program *Steve Scholars* and the exciting events that will take place this 2017/18 school year. This school year will be the first cohort to complete the program, approximately 25 students will receive scholarships.

The following individuals spoke about comments made by Board President Brooke Ashjian in the Fresno Bee on the Healthy Youth Act and LGBT curriculum. Comments were made regarding freedom of speech, schools as a safe place for students and parents, age appropriate curriculum, a parents responsibility to teach their children, parental rights, free exercise of religious liberty, the removal of Board Member Ashjian as President, the need to co-exist, work together and be respectful, people make mistakes, the words of Board President Ashjian were hurtful, opposition to a state mandated policy on sex education, and separation of church and state.

Gary Bredefeld	Andrew Fabela
Jim Franklin	Josh Fulfer
Donald R. Levitt	Ben Bergquam
Chris Jarvis	Tonya Stokes
Abel Parra Gutierrez	Patti Potter
Mary Haskin	Zoyer Zyndel
Sandy Torosian	Jordan Fitzpatrick
Jason Barberich	Allison Murphy
Marilyn Jolley	

The Board of Education took a break at 8:40 p.m. and resumed at 8:53 p.m.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Agenda Item B-21, Present and Discuss Opening of Schools – 2017/18 School Year

Staff presented an update to the Board regarding strategic and operational initiatives to support student success for the 2017/18 school year.

Presentation by Interim Chief of Staff David Chavez, Chief of Technology Kurt Madden, Chief Academic Officer Kim Mecum, and Chief of Operations Karin Temple.

An opportunity was provided to hear questions/concerns from members of the Board and staff was available to respond.

For the record, comments/questions were made regarding Roosevelt High School and the absence of a HAVC program, other CTE offerings at Roosevelt High School, the definition of the Construction pathway, Graduation rates to be broken down by ethnicity, designated time taught in primary language for ELD students, clarity on Lab Schools, the decline of Math proficiency in 2017 in grades 7, 8, and 11, what are we doing to increase our scores, when were the supports implemented, how does the board receive real time data dashboard information, Math has changed there is a lot of reading, support students with incentives along with community members, not one plan will fit all schools, class size ratios, air conditioning not working the first few weeks of school, concern about the lack of facility space at Roosevelt for additional programing, lunch app for your phone, bus drivers and test driving their routes, smooth transition for Rata, concerns regarding the

inclement weather and students being dropped off at Rata, concerns regarding Design Science, clarity on the process of the job reports being generated, congratulated staff on the expediency of setting up Wawona for Dual Immersion, bike racks at schools, and skateboard lockers. Deputy Superintendent/CFO Ruth F. Quinto, Interim Chief of Staff David Chavez, Chief of Technology Kurt Madden, Chief Academic Officer Kim Mecum, Chief of Operations Karin Temple, Chief of Human Resources Paul Idsvoog, Executive Officer Sally Fowler, and Assistant Superintendent Maria Maldonado were able to provide clarification.

In addition there was one community member who addressed the board:

Andrew Fabela – spoke about the districts graduation rates vs. being college ready, how many of our seniors have “D’s” and do we really have substantial growth.

Agenda Item B-22, Present and Discuss Constituent Services Reporting

This report is an update from last year’s report which was presented to the Board on August 24, 2016. Also included is the Constituent Services Quarterly Reporting for Constituent Services activities for the time period of May 1, 2017 through July 31, 2017. The Quarterly Reporting for the Valenzuela/Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures reporting for May 1, 2017 through July 31, 2017 are also included, in accordance with Education Code § 35186.

Presentation by Executive Director Teresa Plascencia.

An opportunity was provided to hear questions/concerns from members of the Board and staff was available to respond.

For the record, comments/questions were made regarding the need to have additional staff in the Constituent Services program. Teresa Plascencia was able to provide clarification. No action is required for this item.

Member De La Cerda moved to extend the meeting for one hour, seconded by Member Cazares, which carried a 7-0-0-0 vote. AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, De La Cerda, Johnson, Jonasson Rosas, Mills and President Ashjian.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

The Board is in receipt of Agenda Item C-23, Fresno Unified School District’s Fourth Quarterly Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2016/17

The Board is in receipt of the fourth quarter investment report for the period ending June 30, 2017. Board Policy 3430(a) requires the Superintendent, or designee, to supply the Board of Education with quarterly and annual reports on district investments. As of June 30, 2017 Fresno Unified School District is in compliance with Board Policy 3430(a) for investments.

Community member **Howard Watkins** spoke to Agenda Item C-23. He spoke of the importance of educating students on the concept of Conception to Age Two.

Unscheduled Oral Communication – continued

The following individuals spoke about removing Trustee Ashjian as President of the Board, an individual's right to freedom of speech, separation of church and state, pushing religion on others, Fresno is a multi-faith community, comprehensive sex education, intolerance, safety for the children of Fresno, and representing the board.

Howard Watkins

Jessica Mahoney

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Ruth Jenkins

Deborah Maggy

Eleanor Dote

Kaede Acuña

Chris Fischer

Kenneth Mackie from Canelo Wallace Pardron & Mackie representing the Original Fresno Watchdogs for Ethical Bidding – spoke about a FPPC complaint against Brooke Ashjian regarding Undisclosed Real Property, a request to FPPC to initiate Civil Action against Brooke Ashjian and a Complaint for an Injunction.

BOARD/INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Jonasson Rosas – Requested workshops on the initiatives that the district is implementing.

Board Member De La Cerda – Requested a board communication with the broken down data that was discussed in the presentation, the mapping of Shot Spotter, and thanked staff for all their hard work.

Board Member Cazares – thanked the public for coming to the board meeting and their comments, we listened and are appreciative. Also thanked staff for a successful first week of school and encouraged them to bring forward new initiatives.

Board Member Ashjian – announced he would be reading a statement and wanted it to be included verbatim in the record:

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the last few days we have seen our community torn by misrepresentations and false allegations by individuals who represent the National LGBT movement. They came to our community from out of town, to demand that I resign my seat on the School board simply because I dare to express concerns regarding a curriculum which will be taught to our children. State law does mandates certain things to be taught, which I stated publicly I would support, because it is law, even though I have concerns. But for the intolerant that isn't good enough. You see, they want to silence any voice who dares question anything LGBT.

Their tactic's and narrow-mindedness remind me of those individuals my great grandparents spoke about, during the dark days of the Ottoman Empire leading up to the 1915 Genocide of our people. 1.5 million Armenians were murdered because they dared to disagree with the powers that be. The intolerance shown by the Ottoman's toward my people was insufferable. These leaders of the LGBT movement are much like them, these outsiders came here attacking my church, trying to blame the faith community, for comments that I alone am responsible for. This too, was a tool of the Ottoman Empire as they tried to diminish the Armenian Churches.

Let me be clear. I spoke as an elected official, and as a Father. The day parents and their duly elected representative lose their voice in matters of education impacting our children, is the day, we morph from education to indoctrination.

As an elected official representing the parents of this district, who elected me with 90% of the vote, one of the highest percentages in California history. Their vote empowers me to be a watchman on the tower, a voice of reason, to raise a flag of concern when warranted. If we cannot speak openly and freely, then how are we an open and free society? What do these LGBT leaders fear? dialogue, or could it be, they simply want to silence anyone who may express or hold a differing opinion. To me this is pure fascism. The undeniable truth is, in our country, we have every right to express our opinions, it is called freedom of speech.

These individuals who are personally attacking me and my religious foundation while demanding my resignation, I ask why? Is it simply because I exercised my Constitutional rights of freedom of speech while I was doing my duty or isn't something more nefarious, like simply desiring to muzzle anyone who dares not fall in line with the narrative of the day.

It is sad, they like the Ottoman's are trying to be the thought police. They are trying to make people of faith second class citizens, as they seek to silence our voices in the public square. Just like what my great grandparents and millions of others had to endure at the hands of the Ottoman's, before escaping to America.

Today, we are being attacked, vilified, labeled and accused by people who know nothing about me, my personal history or beliefs. They simply want to impose their will upon others by silencing our voices. Again, much like the Ottoman's who silenced, belittled or even worse any Armenian who dared to question or stand up to the politically correct voices of their day. I say today, on behalf of our American Armenian community, No, not again, not on my watch.

They say I am intolerant, yet I am not the one seeking to impose my will upon others. The truth is, the very people who demand tolerance from others, are in fact the true intolerants. They seek to silence all voices who express or share a concern or a difference of opinion. Instead of respecting the differences of opinion and honoring the equal rights granted to all, they dishonor the constitution. Benjamin Franklin said, "Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government: When this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved, and tyranny is erected on its ruins". Is that what we want as a legacy for our children? For me, this slippery slope to another Ottoman Empire if we are not vigilant. That is not the America we know and love, which became home and refuge for my ancestors and my people as well as millions of others.

Remember, if freedom of speech is limited only to those who society views as politically correct, then it is only a matter of time before, these same shortsighted and bigoted individuals will turn their sights upon the other freedoms granted us by the Constitution, such as the freedom of the press, and freedom of Religion.

I want to be clear, I want to be very clear, I will NOT resign my position, and I will not be silenced by bully's who want to control the public narrative by mischaracterizing the intent and meaning

of my statements. My comments were not intended to offend anyone, but to simply express a concern. If we as board members cannot openly and honestly express concerns without being marginalized and labeled, then why do we even have a board?

In closing, I want to thank my supporters, and our community, the people who came tonight all of them. I want to reiterate; Fresno Unified School District supports freedom of speech and equality for all. We respect and appreciate varying opinions, historically, we have never been afraid to discuss, and openly debate any given subject, for that is what makes America Great.

D. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Board President Ashjian declared the meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.