



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
2309 TULARE STREET  
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR  
FRESNO, CA 93721-2287  
<https://www.fresnou.org/sites/board>

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Fresno Unified School District**  
**April 12, 2019**

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

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on April 12, 2019, there were present Board Members: Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas and President Cazares. Superintendent Nelson was also present.

President Cazares CONVENED the Special Board Meeting at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the following items on the agenda:

**1. PRESENT and DISCUSS Measure X Investment Priorities**

The Special Meeting will provide an opportunity for the Board to receive information about funding available for facility improvement projects and create a shared understanding of priorities for bond investment. Contact person: Karin Temple, telephone 457-3134. Presentation led by Chief Operations Officer Karin Temple.

For the record, Superintendent reaffirmed the purpose of the meeting.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Linda Laettner** – Spoke to the need of the CTE building discussed in the master plan for Fresno High School; mentioned the site is making do with what they have, but really need the building. Expressed appreciation for the HVAC work done on the gymnasium. Advocated for an auxiliary gymnasium to provide more opportunities to students and reduce program limitations due to space availability.

**Clint Horwitz** – Spoke of his concern of CTE facilities (at five sites) being adequate for the programs, and the lack of second gymnasiums at four high schools. Mentioned this is a question of equity and fairness for sites often left at the bottom of priority lists.

**Dan Ascanio** – Advocated for an auxiliary gymnasium at Fresno High School. Spoke to program limitations the site is facing with only one gymnasium.

**Pat Gutierrez** – Spoke to his support of full funding for the Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School. Encouraged the Board to continue with what is on record.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - *continued*

**Sue Hague** –Mentioned difficulties faced when the Fresno High Alumni Association tried to donate to the district.

**Venancio Gaona** – Spoke to equity and fairness, and providing equal opportunities for everyone. Referenced the Measure X handout and promises made in 2016.

**Leonard Carrillo** – Spoke on behalf of AMAE, advocated for funding for Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School, and referenced the loyalty of residents in the area.

**Chrissy Kelly** – Spoke about segregated portables at Starr Elementary.

**Kei Shabazz** – Spoke about three buildings at Fresno High, the CTE building, the building used for JROTC and the auxiliary gymnasium. Expressed the importance of investing in Fresno High school to provide innovation and new building for students and the surrounding community. Expressed her support of classroom inclusion at Starr Elementary.

**Manuel Bonilla** – Spoke to the need and importance for quality facilities for teachers to teach and students to learn, and the social infrastructure needed to meet the needs of students. Expressed concern of using and depleting general fund resources (at the expense of social infrastructures) for projects where Measure X resources are available.

**Honora Chapman** – Expressed thanks to the Board for educating students and sending to CSUF. Spoke of being a colleague of Juan Felipe Herrera and his aspiration of sharing his art with students from all areas.

For the record, comments/questions were made by Board Members and a summary is as follows: Will AstroTurf at McLane allow all schools to use the field throughout the year? How deep and how many acres will the soil remediation go at the Ventura and 10<sup>th</sup> Street site? Does the Bullard girls' softball field fall under title IX? Is Bullard the only high school that does not have a perimeter fence? Is the district consulting with site staff regarding special education facilities? How did the Bullard fence come to be 4ft? Does the \$1.2 million for special education projects include all projects? Before moving forward on Fulton and Millbrook, will the district look at DeWolf? What does the facility request for STARR contemplate? Explain the need for the conversion at Wawona (Dual Immersion Program). Does Phoenix Secondary need to move in order to build Herrera Elementary? Is the project list in order of priority or implementation? How did schools get on the list for AC improvement? What is the reason for listing the Ventura and 10<sup>th</sup> projects separately? Are there other resources available to help with the Ventura and 10<sup>th</sup> soil remediation? Fencing and single point of entry projects, can these be funded from deferred maintenance and small capital improvement? The importance of accessibility to restrooms and changing tables, with full dignity, for special education students. Is there data on site capacity? Is there a reference to general funds in the presentation? Does the special education work referenced in the presentation include elementary, middle, and high schools or just elementary? Does the work at the McLane Stadium include a snack bar?

For the record, as a point of order, Member Major Slatik stated he does not feel Open Session is a place for personal antipathy.

Name the projects already completed at Wawona at a cost of \$1 million. Exterior lighting and security cameras listed in the presentation, are these for elementary, middle and high schools, or only elementary?

Once projects are out to bid (demolition/soil remediation) is the district tied to funding? Is the intent of removing portables at Ericson and Ewing to build permanent classrooms?

For the record, Member Mills and President Cazares read comments from Keith Pempeck and Principal Wheeler.

For the record, at this point in the meeting, in observance of time, President Cazares asked the Board to list projects they thought would bring about equity and equality that the Board could agree upon, such as second gymnasiums. Discussion followed to clarify the purpose of the meeting was not to prioritize projects but to provide staff information in order to bring recommendations for consideration to the Board.

Summary of Board Discussion:

**Member Major Slatic** – Have staff at Starr Elementary been provided a chance to view and provide feedback to the recommended facility changes for the site? As staff return with recommendations, will worst to first be the prism in which staff will prioritize? Fencing at Bullard, STARR, and the Title IX for girls' softball.

**Member Thomas** – Requested to look at facilities for students that are not able to advocate for themselves. Would like gymnasium, cafeteria, VAPA and CTE building.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** – Giving direction to staff and consistently changing the direction is not good for the system. Where the district places money speaks volumes to its value system. As a district, we need to figure out what our values are in terms of facilities and make sure they align. Accessibility, classrooms and special education will always come first vs. AC and gymnasiums.

**Member Mills** – Important to continue in the direction of placing AC in gymnasiums, cafeterias and ancillary rooms. Second gymnasiums are a priority, needed for P.E., without the second gym, it deprives students an equal opportunity as students at sites that have a second gymnasium. CTE building is a priority for Fresno High. Expressed concern pertaining to sufficiency of funding allocations. Looking at doing the smaller priced projects first and not frontloading the major projects. Equity across the regions and equity in CTE facilities as well. Referenced the facilities assessment score for STARR Elementary. Referenced site capacity numbers and educational suitability scores. Referenced the additional project line and considers second gymnasiums as baseline facilities.

**Member Islas** – Safety is a very high value to consider. Concerned about older campuses, particularly elementary campuses that do not have secure fencing. Ensuring wellness and health of students, AC in cafeterias and gyms. Important to continue to be advocates for the voiceless. In terms of service and facility to special education students, there is a commitment and need for the district to address. With limited funds, try to create the greatest impact to as many students as possible. Groupings to consider, gymnasiums, AC, special education investments, McLane Stadium, CTE facilities, single point of entry, and portables.

**Member Davis** – Encouraged the Board will visit Harvard as part of a business model. Board Governance should be student excellence. Due to capacity, lunch for some students begins at 10:30 a.m. Value student education, a safe place to learn, transportation. Build schools students can be proud of and in which they can learn. What does the district value? Where does the district need to place emphasis in order for students to receive a quality education?

**President Cazares** – Expressed appreciation to the Board and Public for meeting today. Projects that most can agree upon are AC, second gymnasiums (some value as contributing to health, athleticism and good character building, not viewing as an amenity but as a need) single point of entry, fencing, safety. Request made to review sites for fencing and safety needs and build the project into the line item for deferred maintenance and small capital improvements. How long will the Bond last?

**Member Mills** asked for clarity regarding taxes and bond measures. Voting and passing the Bond does not raise taxes; the tax is when selling or issuing the Bond? Deputy Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer Ruth F. Quinto was available to provide clarity.

**President Cazares** – “There is no wrong way to invest in our community.” The need is district-wide. Keep in mind information presented to the public in the Measure X flyer. There is a need to look to authorizing a new bond to build a new school in central Fresno. Allocation for special education improvements is woefully under-estimated.

**2. DISCUSS and APPROVE a Candidate for Subregion 10-B of the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly in the Run-Off Election**

Fresno Unified received information from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) regarding a Delegate Assembly run-off election that requires Board action. The members of the CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Committee met on March 22 to count and certify the ballots for election to the Delegate Assembly. A tie for a seat on the Delegate Assembly occurred in sub-region 10-B resulting in the need for a run-off election. It is recommended the Board approve the vote for one candidate. The Board President recommends approval. Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal impact to the district. Contact person: David Chavez, telephone 457-3566.

Board Member Davis moved for approval of candidate Trustee G. Brandon Vang from Sanger Unified for Subregion 10-B of the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly in the Run-Off Election, seconded by Member Jonasson Rosas which carried a 7-0-0-0 vote as follows: AYES: Board Members: Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Cazares.

**3. DISCUSS and APPROVE Appointment of Board Member to School Liaison Act Committee**

Recently, Fresno Unified was informed of a third available seat to the School Liaison Act Committee. This committee will meet with a goal of developing policies and practices that will improve communication between the City of Fresno and local school governing boards. On January 16, 2019, Board members Cazares and Jonasson-Rosas were appointed to a one-year term and it is recommended the Board appoint a third member to the committee. The Board President recommends approval. Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal impact to the district. Contact person: David Chavez, telephone 457-3566.

For the record, comments were made by President Cazares a summary is as follows: After reaching out to Board Members, I would like to nominate Member Islas for appointment to the Board School Liaison Act Committee.

President Cazares moved for approval, seconded by Member Davis which carried a 7-0-0-0 vote as follows: AYES: Board Members: Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Cazares.

### **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Individuals who wish to address the Board on topics listed on this agenda may do so when the Board President calls for public comment. While all time limitations are at the discretion of the Board President, generally members of the public will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker for a total of thirty (30) minutes of public comment. Individuals with questions on any item on this agenda may submit them in writing. The Board will automatically refer formal requests to the Superintendent for response by the appropriate staff member.

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Board President Cazares declared the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.