



**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Fresno Unified School District**

**Fresno, California
May 13, 2020**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 Paragraph 3, the May 13, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held via teleconferencing and available for all members of the public seeking to observe via <http://go.fresnounified.org/ustream/>, or on the Ustream App on your Android or Apple device, Comcast Xfinity Channel 94 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, or through the following teleconference line: Teleconference Line – English - Dial in: +1 559-512-2623 Passcode: 141 945 774#. Teleconference Line – Spanish - Dial in: +1 559-512-2623 Passcode: 281 959 252#.

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on May 13, 2020, there were present Board Members Davis, Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and President Thomas. Superintendent Nelson was also present.

Board President Thomas CONVENED the Special Board Meeting at 4:32 p.m.

- 1. PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2020/21 Strategic Budget Development PRESENTED and DISCUSSED as recommended,** the 2020/21 Governor's Proposed Budget released on January 10, 2020, as well as the potential impacts on Fresno Unified, and the strategic budget development process.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item 1. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity pertaining to the number of new buses the district will acquire over the next three years. Asked if the deadline to update or replace buses will be extended. Requested clarity pertaining to the number of buses funded by grant resources, and if figure is represented in the presentation. Requested staff to look at how people are being utilized, especially related to what the learning model will look like in the fall. Requested clarity on using buses for internet hot spots and if there are related costs. Second request made for information pertaining to Designated Schools. Chief Operations Officer Karin Temple, Deputy Superintendent/CFO Ruth F. Quinto, and Superintendent Nelson were available to provide clarity.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 1

Efrain Botello – Hello FUSD Board of Education, My name is Efrain Botello and I have the pleasure of working directly with FUSD high school students at the youth serving organization Fresno Barrios Unidos. My comment is in regard to the 2020-21 budget development. My concern lies in how money has been spent for "improving student safety" at FUSD schools. Historically, we have depended on heavy policing and criminalizing our students as a means of "improving student safety" That approach has failed and has only led to suspension, expulsion, and arrest of the youth in most need of help. We need to redefine what school safety looks like and invest our money in restorative approaches such as counselors, psychologists and other extracurricular activities for youth. I invite you to engage with organizations such as Fresno Barrios Unidos who are experts at restorative approaches that promote student safety. Our students deserve holistic investments that meet their socioemotional needs. Efrain Botello, Youth Advocacy and Leadership Program Assistant, Pronouns: He/Him/His

Marisa Moraza – On behalf of Fresno Barrios Unidos, a community based organization with a long history of supporting youth and their families in Fresno, we call on the board to establish a budget that prioritizes equitable investments to our students and families.

We acknowledge the tremendous work the district has accomplished during this crisis to feed our families, equip students with resources and technology, and adapt to new learning environments. Additionally, this crisis has highlighted the inequities we knew to be true. Our students and families that are most marginalized continue to be put at-risk. Living and adapting to the conditions of a pandemic have made clear the importance of centering the humanity and well-being of our most vulnerable populations. Fresno Youth have emphatically vocalized a need for age appropriate and culturally responsive behavioral health supports; evidence based and harm reduction centered substance use prevention/treatment and mental health services (both clinical and nonclinical services). We want to ensure that our students have access to programs that value their humanity, healing, and growth. We ask the district to challenge status quo "safety investments" that do not center the mission of education and instead prioritize punitive and harmful discipline measures our Black, Latino, Special Education and systems impacted students. We must move towards investments that truly cultivate safety and support for students. Marisa Moraza, Youth Advocacy and Leadership Manager, Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Selena Rojas – Good evening Board Trustees, My name is Selena Rojas and I am a freshman at McLane High School. I am involved in Womxn Empowered at Fresno Barrios Unidos and I am also a part of the Fresno Children and Youth Fund-Youth Council. I want to talk about why I strongly disagree with funding Shotspotter and to pay SROs to stay on school campuses. I was told that the officer at my school was there to "promote safety and mentor us" right? Then tell me why I've talked to other students and we all agreed on the fact that SROs make us feel AND

look like criminals. Something that would help is if the money could go into more counseling, mental health support, and job skills programs. Funding should go to actually addressing root causes of fights, discipline issues and even drug use. I say this because I remember once I had to wait a whole week to share something with a counselor that was very important to me. During that time, I felt very upset because there were many emotions getting built up. I wish everyone here knew all the issues youth face in Fresno. Can you imagine how different our community would be if adults would actually listen to youth before making all the decisions that impact us? Youth would thrive, feel safe and loved. It's time to invest in us and our overall well being. Thank you. Sincerely Selena Rojas

For the record, Board Members had further comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item 1. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity, in the form of percentages, on information represented on slide. Requested clarity on the District's contribution to the health fund represented on slide 16. Suggested the information be described in verbiage other than potential ongoing reductions. Requested clarity on the extended day fund balance. Comment made for consideration, regarding information listed on slide 15 pertaining to sweeping extended day fund balance. Important for stability to maintain employees and their salaries maintain supports for students, maintain teaching environment already in place. Talk to labor partners about potentially freezing salaries for a year rather than making cuts. Acknowledged the public comments shared with the Board. Concerned about Foster and Homeless Youth and looking at how to reconfigure existing resources to better serve. Equity and opportunity for all students. Increased need to support parents of English Learner's with how to navigate technology and curriculum. African American students, how do we reconfigure to be a better service to the community. Distance learning is difficult for Special Education students. Very interested in how we can better serve these students. Are CARES act resources to fill in gaps the district has already spent or gaps for next year? Requested clarity on information presented on slide 12 pertaining to state revenue and if there is any basis showing education will be prioritized by the state. Requested clarity on restrictions and utilization of the CARES act for educational institutions. Requested information on how the current situation due to COVID-19 will affect Workers' Compensation. Expressed appreciation for zero-based budgeting. Requested information on budgeting for 2021/22 and how things change in the U and the L. Expressed the need to figure out long-term solutions and costs to deal with current issues. Asked Board to look at how staff can be used in different ways to provide service to students and to better distance learning. Recommended taking actions now to avert having to take deeper cuts in the future. Requested a brief overview of strategies used to address the 2007/08 recession be provided. How will savings from school closures be used? Thanked staff for their work and recommendations. Would like to avoid a hiring freeze. Chief Operations Officer Karin Temple, Deputy Superintendent/CFO Ruth F. Quinto and Superintendent Nelson were available to provide clarity.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Efrain Botello – Submitting on behalf of a student: My name is Raymond Zavala I am an 18 year old senior and I attend Cambridge HS. I was kicked out of Roosevelt during my 11th grade year for a fight I wasn't involved in. I just got blamed and kicked out. I have been attending Cambridge HS ever since. I have finished my probation thanks to Fresno Barrios Unidos and Men With Heart and I am scheduled to graduate this summer. I have not heard from anyone in my school about college. One of my biggest worries is the only support I got is from Fresno Barrios Unidos and I need to work to help my family out and there are no job opportunities for me. Last thing I wanna say my friends who are still in school got more complaints and problems not knowing what they grades will mean when they go back to school next year. They not learning cause my friends also don't have computers or internet. We hood kids. Efrain Botello, Youth Advocacy and Leadership Program Assistant, Pronouns: He/Him/His

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.