

**JUNE 04, 2020 Special Board Meeting**  
Public Comment Items appear in order received by area.

**CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**AGENDA ITEM 1. Discuss and Provide Direction on Potential Budget Priorities for 2020/21**

**1. Catherine Clawson**

June 3rd, 2020

To whom it may concern:

My name is Catherine Clawson and I am a 3rd Grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary. I understand that as a nation and school district, we are facing both a health and financial crisis that will be devastating for years to come. That being said, I wanted to express my concerns regarding the upcoming agenda that will provide potential budget priorities for the 2020/2021 school year.

Teaching at a designated school site, I have seen firsthand how much our students and community have benefited from the additional resources designation has offered them. Our school site has seen incredible growth since the implementation of designated school sites. In 2016, our state test scores were as follows: ELA 21% meeting standards, Math 15% meeting standards. In 2019, ELA scores showed 47.7% met standards, and in Math 49% met standards.

This program was put into place to specifically address and meet the needs of our student populations most disadvantaged. I know my school site, and my students, fall under that umbrella. While I understand that cuts will have to be made in order to successfully run our district next year, I am respectfully asking that you consider other options. Our students need the additional supports given through designation now more than ever. Thank you for your time, Catherine Clawson.

**2. Jennie Cortez**

I write this letter to you today both as a teacher & parent of a designated school. It is unfortunate that during these times in our country we have to make decisions about money & not care for the lives it will impact. As a teacher at Jefferson elementary, I have seen the impact DS title has given our children. They have risen to the challenge despite all the adversities they are faced with in their daily life. We can't compare this to any Non-designated schools. As a parent, I brought my own children to Jefferson. I believed in the hard work & dedication our staff show our students everyday. If we lose the designated model, we lose an equivalent of 15 days with the kids that need it the most. This will significantly impact our families, students, and community. Our scores have increased from 21% proficient in ELA (2016) to 47.7% proficient (2019) and in Math from 15% proficient to 49% proficient! This would not have happened without the extra time, supports, and engagement of our staff and students. This proves that the designated school model is effective, successful, and necessary.

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We cannot allow the social disparity in our city to continue, it may take years to bridge the Shaw gap, but without designated schools, you send the message that they don't matter! & We believe they are worth it! Jennie Cortez, 3rd Grade Teacher

**3. Juliana Bonilla**

As a teacher that works at Jefferson Elementary, I feel that eliminating Designated Schools is not in the best interest of our students. Designated schools were designed to help the most underserved students in Fresno Unified. Yet, our students will be the ones taking the hit because of budget cuts caused by the recent pandemic. Since becoming designated, our state test scores have increased from 21% proficient in ELA (2016) to 47.7% proficient (2019) and in Math from 15% proficient to 49% proficient. This growth is in spite of the inequalities and challenges our students face in their daily lives. Taking away the 30 minutes a day is equivalent to 15 less days of quality instruction for our students. The Designation Model is proving to work at Jefferson. Please consider the impact this will have on our students in the upcoming years before making your final decision. Thank you for putting the needs of our students first.

**4. Heather DiFuria**

As a teacher at Jefferson, I firmly believe that eliminating designated schools would be a huge disservice. Specific schools were selected for this to increase education and proficiency of our students in disadvantaged areas. Our sites cannot be compared with non-designated schools because those students aren't facing the same challenges as students in our area. Since becoming designated, we have seen students engaged, learning, and achieving at rates that we hadn't seen before. Designated schools have added 15 days with the kids that need it the most. Without those days, our students' success will be significantly impacted. Our scores have increased from 21% proficient in ELA (2016) to 47.7% proficient (2019) and in Math from 15% proficient to 49% proficient! Clearly, the designated school model is effective, successful, and necessary.

During the shelter in place order, teachers have used our time to create connections with the students, families, and colleagues to learn how to better support our school. We are continuing to educate, connect with, and console our students and families. We are administering meaningful lessons from a distance learning lens and creating the best possible experience during this time of uncertainty.

We all understand that these decisions are difficult, and each party is impacted when emergency situations arise. However, I would encourage you to think of the success of students and explore other options to help make up the deficits we face.

Thank you for considering what is best for the students of Fresno Unified. Heather DiFuria

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**5. Daniel Fisher**

To whom it may concern:

I ask you to cut all ties with the Fresno Police Department. Their presence is a destructive force on our youth and particularly target black & brown students with violence and impede their education. Increased investment in surveillance technologies like ShotSpotters and the continuing militarization of the police force do not serve to protect students, and are inessential to their education and well-being.

The district must look into reinvestment plans that prioritize student health and social welfare, like expansions of food programs, mental health initiatives, and extracurricular programs, and MUST include students in on these conversations, as well as community members. Reinvest in alternative forms of school safety. Look towards other school boards like in Minneapolis who have cut ties with their local police departments

<http://strib.mn/3dso4X1>

Our community deserves a more nuanced, holistic approach to school safety. The reactive, violent Fresno PD does not have the capability to handle this.

**6. Diana Martinez**

Hello members of the board my name is Debby I'm a FUSD grad and a parent to a student attending FUSD Dual Immersion Program. First, I'd like to thank all the staff and teachers of FUSD for the support and consistent communication with students and families. This made the COVID-19 experience easier to bare.

With that said, on the focus of distant learning we had an amazing experience and we'd like to ask that this way of learning be included in the schools budget as an available option for parents. My son is an introvert so being able to do Zoom meetings with his Dual Immersion elementary school teacher twice a week and following the online learning guides worked very well in helping him focus. Our teacher assigned projects, homework, and made the zoom meetings interactive and fun. She communicated well with us via Class Dojo and whenever we had a question she was amazing in messaging us back. I would like to ask that Distant Learning be made available as an option for families with all the online and classroom workbooks needed with FUSD teacher support. This can possibly include students attending class onsite 1-2x a week, in other days logging into the classroom via Zoom or small classes like we experienced during the last couple of months, PDF files sent to parents of work packets as an additional aid for learning, weekly check-in at school site for possible assessment and turning in work samples. We thank you for  
**(250-word limit reached)**

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**7. Andrew Simpson**

Hello,

My name is Andrew Simpson and I am an elementary teacher at a designated school. The FTA has told us in recent days that a section of the CBA states that the Board of Education can terminate designated schools in the event of a budget shortfall. Given our current situation, a budget shortfall is our reality. My questions have to do with the execution of this option to terminate designated schools and the equity of that decision in order to help make up a portion of the budget shortfall.

In regard to the budget for the 20/21 school year and the termination of Designated Schools in order to help meet the budget shortfall, would each board member like to comment on the equity of cutting the hours and pay of only 25% of teachers in order to preserve full benefits and pay for the remaining 75% of teachers?

The termination of the designated schools program will result in an immediate reduction in pay of roughly 12% for nearly 25% of teachers in the district, who currently work at Designated Schools. How is it equitable to place the burden of the budget shortfall on the shoulders of only a minority of 25% of teachers to retain to status quo in pay and benefits for the remaining 75% of educators? Andrew L Simpson, 5th Grade Teacher, Easterby Elementary, (559) 473-9184.

**8. Karen Mayne**

Dear

I am greatly concerned about the possibility of taking away Designated Schools and how it will affect our students at Jefferson and other sites. I have worked in a DS for 6 years. Our school did not vote to become DS but told we would be participating in the DS program.

Over the years it has been a challenge for teachers and students alike with longer school days for both and seemingly endless meetings that were stressful but necessary. Our staff and students have seen rewards with student achievement. Jefferson's scores in 2016 for ELA were 21 and Math 15. Scores in 2019 for ELA were 47.7 and Math 49.0. This was possible with additional instructional time. The average taken for the schools in each group of DS sites is not an accurate account of the student gains at our site. It is only logical to look at each sites success before deciding that DS has not worked.

Since we shut our school sites, our teachers have worked hard to keep our students and their families connected and learning. We have class, grade level, staff and Lead meetings on Teams to continue learning during this time of distance learning.

Students in disadvantaged areas deserve to grow up and thrive, be leaders and contributors to our community. The parents of our students are also counting on us to provide in education what

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they are not able to assist with. Thank you. Sincerely, Karen Mayne, 1st Grade Teacher, Jefferson Elementary

**9. Adrienne Carcha-Diaz**

Hello,

My name is Adrienne Diaz. I live in Fresno, and am wishing to provide public comments on the discussion of the budget for next school year. I urge the board to defund or fully divest and cut ties to the Fresno Police department. Since the increases of police presence on campuses across America, the profiling of poor black and brown students, meaning those who are non white, has increased, and funneled more minors into the criminal justice system over minor infractions that don't even deserve detention or other forms of write ups. Instead of these so-called resource officers, I urge that more money be put towards mental health resources that are culturally relevant and appropriate to the students that will be served. Studies show that schools that either eradicate or even reduce punitive discipline policies and replace them with restorative ones see huge drops in discipline issues and rid the need for police officers on campus, not that there was ever a need for them to begin with.

Students need supportive educational environments not once that enforce patterns of fear and incarceration.

**10. Paula Aluisi**

June 3, 2020

Dear Superintendent Nelson and FUSD Board Members,

Regarding the June 2nd FTA meeting, I am saddened to hear that FUSD is considering the elimination of the Designated Schools Model that is currently implemented in our schools. I have been at a Designated School since 2015 and have seen how much the extra 30 minutes per day, 5,400 minutes per school year has increased the learning of my students. With this extra 30 minutes a day, I was able to provide intense RTI in a small group setting targeting what those individual students were struggling with.

I have been with the district for 19 years and have never seen such a powerful model such as the Designated School model. If we do away with Designated Schools, I feel that our students will once again be missing out on essential learning that is very much needed.

I understand that these are unprecedented times and that we must make cuts to the budget, but not at our students' expense! I urge you to PLEASE consider modifying the Designated Schools by eliminating the extra days if needed, but not the extra 30 minutes per day with students. I am hopeful that you will consider the negative impact that this will have on our future leaders if the extra instructional minutes are taken away from our future leaders.

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I appreciate your time in reading this and I hope that you will consider my suggestions. Paula Aluisi, Third Grade Teacher, Wolters Elementary

**11. Rosa Lopez**

Good evening members of the Board and Superintendent Nelson, it is with great concern that I am taking the time to advocate for our students at Wolters elementary. It is deeply concerning the idea of designated schools being disestablished from our system. As a nation we are in unprecedented times, but taking extended minutes is not the solution. Our students at Wolters will have 5,400 minutes taken from them. The additional 30 minutes with students allowed teachers to implement small group instruction in our reading and math block.

I have been with the district 18 years and have never seen a greater impact than the additional 30 minutes. Take the 10 additional days of teacher planning 4,800 minutes but keep 30 minutes for our students.

According to our FTA meeting, the 27 million will be used to help offset shortfall and put back into the healthcare fund. 15 million will go back to students. I would like for language to be used to protect and continue the extended 30 minutes a day for our students.

Board Members please consider modifying the designated model. I understand that elimination of designated schools could be a possibility in 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 but allow a year of transition and modification before completely taking it away. Rosa Lopez, 3rd grade teacher, Wolters Elementary

**12. Elisabeth Robledo**

Due to public scrutiny over the years for the use of educational resources allocated to local law enforcement in order to provide funding for non-educational services, and considering a budget which will include cuts to educational resources, please consider acting proactively and terminate the district's contract with law enforcement; in order to assure the public, stakeholders that our educational dollars are available for educational programs, resources and services. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Elisabeth Robledo, Teacher

**13. Karen Crozier**

West Fresno Christian Coalition, Mrs. Katherine Crozier  
Pending Budget Cuts – Unscheduled Oral Communication

Dear President Thomas, Board Members, and Superintendent Nelson:

The West Fresno Christian Coalition (WFCC) is writing to again thank you for your leadership and commitment serving the District and to share our support of the Board adopted A4 Taskforce Recommendations developed under the leadership of A4 Executive Director Wendy McCulley. The A4 Initiative is an excellent example of FUSD's commitment to equity, diversity, justice, and

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inclusion for all students. We look forward to furthering our collaboration with the District's ongoing planning and support measures leading to successful systemic implementation of the A4 Task Force Recommendations throughout the District.

Presently, our key concerns are with the impact certain budget cuts may have on the A4 office, its capacity, and program supports. An exemption from cuts for the A4 office and its efforts can be a maximal means of continual A4 educational program experiences while facilitating the systemic implementation of A4 Taskforce Recommendations measures into African American students' learning experiences during the regular school day in classrooms and on campuses. And, viable program supports reflecting encouraging cost-benefit outcomes can include mandatory attendance in current A4 programs for underachieving African American students to bolster their achievement. Your consideration of these concerns is appreciated.

In conclusion, as a group largely comprised of former and current educators, we support A4's Theory of Action and subsequently share their conviction that direct structural support and the mitigation of systemic barriers to achievement will accelerate **(250-word limit reached)**

**14. Hannah Esqueda**

As a student growing up in Fresno Unified, I never understood why we had police on campus. A School Resource Officer implies that they are there as a resource or asset, but for who? It definitely was never a benefit for me and my fellow students. I never felt like I could talk to them, or even approach them. They didn't make me feel safer, if anything their presence on campus caused me anxiety.

Today, I have the honor of working alongside Fresno Unified students as part of my job at a nonprofit. They constantly talk about feeling unsafe around police, feeling anxious and distracted. So why are we continuing to pay for a police presence in our schools? It's been hurting Fresno Unified students for decades.

Eventually, my husband and I will start our family here. We'll send our kids to Fresno Unified Schools because this is our community. We don't want to see cops on campus for this next generation. It's time for FUSD to defund the police and remove them from our schools. Reinvest all those millions in resources students want -- counselors (academic and emotional), librarians and nurses. Help make Fresno Unified a healthy and safe space.

Thank you, Hannah Esqueda Freeman, Fresno High Class of 2009, Go Warriors! (559) 367-7158

**15. Daniele Beall-Larsen**

To Superintendent Nelson, the FUSD Board of Trustees, and Fresno Unified Community

In 2014-2015 Fresno Unified took on the brave endeavor of making ten low performing, high poverty, and high English learner elementary schools into Designated Schools. There was a lot of

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excitement, but also anger and division amongst FUSD teachers. The District had a vision that not everyone could see yet; despite disputes, the District pushed forward in 2015-2016 and added 20 more schools for a total of 30 schools. Gaining steam, the District added ten more schools in 2016-2017 making a total of 40 designated schools. Since then, there has been a lot of division amongst FUSD teachers and questions as to whether designated schools were working, but the data has shown that this Designated School “Experiment” is working; low performing schools are growing! Since then, the district has opened this opportunity to more schools. Students are gaining over an extra year of instructional minutes by the time they reach 6th grade and teachers are given the time to be innovative like never previously incentivized. At the end of 2019 every designated school showed growth, an almost unheard-of endeavor. Due to the success of initial implementation, teachers at these schools began to grow comfortable with being designated and felt that the district would never want to undo this great success. Come the Covid-19 pandemic, everything changed. The extra instruction time and meeting time abruptly ended. Slowly but surely, teachers started meeting again and kids started connecting with teachers, **(250-word limit reached)**

**16. Pedro Navarro Cruz – Voice Message**

Hello my name is Pedro Navarro Cruz I live here in Fresno CA I went to school in Fresno unified School Graduated Bullard high school 2008 But yeah I just really share the same sentiments as a lot of folks throughout the country and here in Fresno as well And that is I would like to see the cops removed the Police Department removed from our schools I feel that money could be invested In our youth in a more productive way And the police is not really serving a perfect. The police department is here, by in case of an emergency but we do not need to be spending so much money on a department which is overly funded and our youth are underfunded. So please look for ways to better serve our youth. Thank you.

**17. Mario Manganielo – Voice Message**

Hello, my name is Mario MANGANIELO, I am a resident of Fresno. I am calling about the issue of funding from Fresno Unified to the police and I don't believe Fresno Unified should fund the police anymore. A great example is uh, I was working with uh, great schools from 2016 – 2018 and if kids don't read at grade level by grade three they have a 75% chance of dropping out of high school and millions of dollars where given at the police and those monies could have been stayed in schools and they could of helped out those kids in kindergarten to third grade that need help reading. So I think that is a much more important are that the money could go to and plus the police already have a ton of money and a ton of funding.

**18. Jonel – Voice Message**

I surely don't feel that Fresno Unified should be paying any cops. Um uniform uniformed cops on high school campus..... if you want to see a better future for the kids invest in the students that money that you are giving for the cops, invest in the students.....

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**19. Anonymous – Voice Message – No Transcription due to Anonymity**

**20. Alexandria Ramos OCasey – Voice Message**

Hi, my name is Alexandria Ramos O'Casey, I wanted to make a comment regarding budget priorities. Fresno Unified currently pays for full uniformed cops on all high school and middle school campuses. This is unacceptable. Fresno Unified Board of Trustees will be discussing these budget priorities, so I want them to know that we need to prioritize investments in youths and not cops. Many other districts are completely eliminating their contracts with there uh, with there police departments and I hope that Fresno Unified will do the same. Thank you so much.

**21. Marissa Corpus**

FUSD Board,

As you have known, the police in our schools have no place. They have not provided a safer campus for students but rather have left students feeling uneasy walking past them in the hallways. As frequently visiting schools for my job I have overheard countless conversations in the office of students being harassed by their campus police and campus staff only listening to the police rather than the student. Never have I heard these conversations refer the students to a counselor or school psychologist. I trust that you will remove police from all of our school campuses and allocate the funds to resources our students actually need. Thank you,

**22. Kenisha Daily – Voice Messenger**

Hi, my name is Kenisha Daily, and I am an educator. Um, I am calling to discuss the budget priorities. I was hoping you could talk on the matter of police in schools. Um, fully uniformed police officers on Fresno Unified campuses that have, that know that negatively effect students of color and it encourages broken window policing. You need to reassess that reevaluate that and use that money towards helping or benefitting our students.

**23. Kayana Suniga – Voice Message**

Hello, my name is Kayana Suniga Carluchi I'm here to discuss budget priorities for 2020/2021 in regards to the budget as to make decisions and to having more PD in our school systems, and the unified school systems of Fresno even the high school and the junior high school. My opinions and uh my platform that I would like to utilize today is that I would ask to fund more counseling, fund more youth uh programs, let's put more money into the schools instead of into the police department. Personally, I attended a high school and a junior high school that did not have neither a police department on site or anywhere even near the school in general. We had counselors who acted in place of any police that was necessary. The only time the police or any emergency personnel first responders were called that in a state of a medical emergency. Personally, I do not believe that police need to have a station or department in a school system, period. If you could please take note of all of our messages, our plight and our emotions. We are here for the people we are here for the children; those are our future. My children do not need to walk and live in fear and go to school in fear, knowing that a police department is on

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campus. Because our culture did not grow up knowingly welcome the police, we were taught to fear the police. So, my children do **(250-word limit reached)**

**24. Grace Miller**

Dear Fresno Unified Board of Trustees,

My name is Grace Miller, and I am a college student and taxpayer in Fresno. I am writing to urge the Fresno Unified Board of Trustees to end contracts with cops on FUSD campuses. As we have seen within the past few months, police do not keep people safe. Police target, harass, assault, and murder Black and Brown people. They uphold white supremacy, and they are a source of violence in Fresno. It takes little research to know that Fresno PD are notorious for killing and shooting unarmed Black and Latinx people in Fresno. And as we can tell from the past few days of protesting, people are paying attention. I and countless other Fresno community members are paying attention.

Again, I urge you to end contracts with Fresno PD, and to no longer allow police on campus. Schools are where students go to learn. Cops do not ensure student safety, and instead, make a small group of white people feel safer. Students deserve a learning environment that is free from police intervention and harassment. You wonder what you can do to serve “at-risk” kids- you can start by cutting spending on police and redirecting those resources into your students.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions about statements in this email (that cops target and harass Black students and students of color, that police do not make us safer), please contact me. I would be happy to share educational resources **(250-word limit reached)**.

**25. Elena Harvey**

Hello,

The upcoming FUSD budget MUST prioritize the wellbeing, educational needs, and care of students, specifically Black students and students of color. FUSD must follow the example of Minneapolis Public School District. They must CUT TIES with the Fresno PD, and INVEST in Public Health approaches to Public Safety. I want my tax dollars working for schools where all students feel respected, safe, and cared for. Not to help fund a militarized police force that is not equipped nor trained to care for students of color.

Sincerely, A white resident of North Fresno, Elena Harvey Collins ,  
<http://www.elenaharveycollins.com>, 216 470 8761

**26. Adam Harrison – Voice Message**

Hi, my name is Adam Harrison I’m just calling because you guys should invest in youth and schools instead of systematically racist police environment. I mean it’s common sense. Thank you, bye.

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**27. Joseph E. Gonzales – Voice Message**

My name is Joseph E. Gonzales Item number 281959252. I'm calling on behalf of Burroughs elementary. I feel that they need to stay a Designated School to help our students with the programs that they need. I only have two children that go to Burroughs. I feel all the programs that are designated to us will be beneficial to them in the future and in their careers. So, I would appreciate it if you'd take the time and help our school stay a Designated School. Thank you.

**28. Thien Dang – Voice Message**

Hi, my name is Thien Dang, I'm leaving a comment regarding the budget priorities for 2020/2021, uh the school priorities, the budget priorities. I would like us to defund the police surveillance and instead re-appropriate or direct more of our funding toward school counselors, mental health professionals. I am a former Fresno Unified School District student and also an employee, and um, I think the health of our students will thrive if we focus on their holistic well-being instead of investing in this stronger police presence. I feel like this strikes fear and also triggers trauma, especially those in minoritized communities. Um, so that was the case for myself as well as other people, so please redirect more of our funding towards mental health professionals on our Fresno Unified School District campuses.

**29. Brooke Rowland**

If the money that went to fully uniformed cops on middle on high school campuses went to programs that benefited the youth You wish to protect, you wouldn't have a need for police. Invest in the youth, defund the police.

**30. Paloma Esteves**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Paloma Esteves and I am writing you today regarding budget priorities. Fresno Unified currently pays for fully uniformed police officers on all High School and Middle School Campuses. I believe we should be using the budget to prioritize investments in our youth.

We should have more programs and clubs to encourage our youth to find something they are passionate about. Classes that will help our youth learn trades in addition to the current curriculum. This will help our youth out of the current system that is failing them. Finding something they are passionate about will keep our youth off "the streets" and gear them toward the career/path they are wanting for their future. Thanks in advance for taking this into consideration. Paloma Esteves

**31. Lisa Gorans**

Dear Board Members,

I was extremely concerned that there has been discussion about eliminating the Designated Schools Program. I am a teacher at Susan B. Anthony Elementary. I have been in education for

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the past 15 years. My most recent three years have been teaching kindergarten at this school site. I have never seen and experienced such poverty and its effects on the students before this assignment. I have had students living in one room hotels with whole families sleeping on a mattress placed on the floor. I have students who do not have books at home, and others that I believe have not held a pencil before coming to kindergarten. Many students are not being fed at home, and their basic needs such as going to the dentist for a toothache, or getting glasses are not being met by their parents. The gaps in schools due to socioeconomics were never so apparent until the Corona Virus hit, and distance learning came about. In my kindergarten class, I had many parents who could not navigate the internet. Parents had to be shown numerous times how to log on, use shift keys, how to access the internet, and find google. Many parents were overwhelmed and ill equipped to help their children at home. The students coming from these environments desperately need the extra 30 minutes of instructional time.

I understand that you will have to make some hard decisions regarding budget cuts. I would rather the cuts be made across the **(250-word limit reached)**

**32. Alex Orozco**

we don't need cops in schools who disproportionately negatively impact black and brown students. cut ties with fpd and redirect the money towards something that could actually benefit the students. --Alexander

**33. Veronica Martinez**

Good morning,

I know you will be discussing budget priorities for next year today and I ask that you consider investing in youth programs and extra curricular activities instead of using your budget to have police officers on your campuses. With the current situation in our country, now more than ever we need to invest in our youth, who are the future of our country. Thank you. Veronica Martinez

**34. Estevan Gutierrez**

Enough is enough. Law enforcement on campus does not equal safety. Invest in youth resources like mental health programs, counselors, leadership development.

Defund police patrol on all campuses! We've seen very little to zero success in law enforcement presence on campus in terms of student safety and violence prevention. On the contrary, we've seen more Black and Brown students shuffled into the school to prison pipeline by the masses!

#CounselorsNotCops #InvestInYouth #JusticeForGeorgeFloyd

**35. Carolina Garza De Luna**

The world has come together over policing around the globe! Fresno PD took a knee with BLM and so should the board. Follow through with that knee and defund policing at our schools. No school cops next year or evermore! Replace with peer mediation and counselors of many disciplines and POC. Carolina Garza De Luna , FRESNO UNIFIED PARENT

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**36. Elizabeth Abina**

To whom it may concern:

We need to prioritize investing in our youth rather than cops. I strongly disagree with the community continuing to over fund police but underfund the schools. Students deserve to have adequate learning materials and adequate allocation of funds. Fresno unified SHOULD NOT contribute to the funding of police. Best, Elizabeth Abina

**37. Maria Guzman**

Hi,

Before deciding the budget allocation, consider hiring more social workers and counselors for FUSD. Counselors rarely get to interact with all of their students due to their large caseload. In response to our current situation, more mental health professionals need to be added on the school site. Thank you, Maria Guzman, Includer. Learner. Input. Intellection. Connectedness

**38. Michael Dominguez**

Greetings esteemed Trustees,

For the coming years our city and our district needs to reassess where our funding lay. We must DIVEST from law enforcement involvement within our schools and instead DIVERT funding to counselors, mental health and physical health services, social services and support, and other programs that work to build up our youth. Our youth should be an investment and NOT a group to be surveilled and monitored. Police presence and involvement can only serve to address the symptoms of an issue. Rarely, if ever, does police involvement turn our youths' lives around. We need intervention and prevention, no reactionary discipline which does not benefit our students. Kind Regards, Fresno Citizen and Educator, Michael Dominguez

**39. Dolores Ayala**

Hi, my name is Dolores and as a former FUSD student, I call on the Board to establish a budget that prioritizes our students well being by allocating funds to culturally responsive behavioral health services and mental health support.

Our students deserve to have access to psychologists, social workers and counselors who have a deeper understanding of what their lives outside of school look like. Focusing on schoolwork can be hard if things at home aren't going exactly the best and not having a trusted adult at school to confide in and process these experiences and emotions can make focusing so much harder. I know that during my time as a FUSD student, not being able to have a school counselor who understood what I was going through at home made it super hard for me to focus and actually engage in my classes. If I had an adult who understood my situation and helped me learn healthy coping skills, I could have done so much better academically.

Our students deserve support from mental health professionals who can meet them where they are at and help guide them through their struggles. They deserve to feel safe, heard and supported. They deserve to thrive, and they'll only be able to thrive if their whole wellbeing,

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including their mental wellbeing, is prioritized. Our students deserve better to be seen as a whole person.

**40. Krystal Morin**

My name is Krystal Morin

Keep cops out of our schools. Invest in the YOUTH. Invest in culturally responsive mental health services. Invest in the arts and after school programs and parent engagement. Do not let FUSD enable and be complicit to a system that targets Black and brown students, especially when lives are at stake.

**41. Jennifer Rojas**

Fresno School Board,

I am urging you, as the oldest of 5 siblings, as a youth service worker, as a FUSD alumni, as a community member, as a human please get cops off our campuses. End the contracts with Fresno PD and do not give this overly funded entity another dollar.

I have heard countless stories of young people being criminalized while at school. It is an injustice to go to school, a place of learning, and not feel safe. It is an injustice to all of us when schools center discipline and not healing. Funnel our students to healing centers and not prisons.

Fresno PD has shown us time and time again that they do not serve us, have you listened? Given the current moment, maybe you're listening now. Police and safety are not synonyms. Please, reimagine what safety can look like for our students. Please make schools places for thriving. en comunidad siempre, Jennifer Rojas, 93702

**42. Cesilia Acevedo**

My name is Cesilia Acevedo and I am calling to provide a public comment on the "Budget Priorities" as a concerned FUSD community member to urge the Fresno Unified school district to:

1. Terminate contracts with our local police department
2. End regular presence of cops on both middle school and high school campuses
3. Invest in our youth by having school staff that are trained to ensure safe and positive school climates like counselors, behavior interventionists, schools aids and other support staff. Staff who prevent and address safety concerns and conflicts while also addressing root causes of conflict and disruptive behavior using holistic and restorative approaches.

School safety does not mean we need to have cops on our campuses. We need to invest in the development of our Youth not their policing. Thank you.

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**43. Zoe Poole**

Fresno Unified pays for fully uniformed cops on all high school and middle school campuses. That is a gross misuse of funds that could be invested in the students/youth programs. I and many others are fed up with money being used for things like clothing cops and not used for creating a better school/life for our youth. We demand that you officials invest in youth and NOT cops. #counselorsnotcops. Zoe Poole

**44. Inaudible Name – Voice Message – Did not Transcribe due to Anonymity**

I'm calling for budget priorities 2020 to 2021. I believe that our school district spends way too much money on police enforcement in schools when that money could be prioritized elsewhere. I believe that the money should be spent on supporting staff, supporting teachers and students, the enrichment activities, more counselors more nurses this is what our students really want. I would really like for you to reevaluate how much money you give to our police officers.

**45. Steven Barcelos**

Hello,

I would like to express that Fresno unified should cut all the funding for police officers on high school and middle school campuses. Campus officers do not make our most vulnerable students safer. They only ensure that it is easier to funnel students into the prison industrial complex. Please don't use any of the budget to pay police officers.

**46. Sonia Vargas**

Hello Fresno Unified Board of Trustees,

I am writing to address budget priorities for the Fresno Unified School District, and I am sharing my support for defunding the police presence in our middle schools and our high schools. We need that money to go to counselors, conflict mediation training for students, mental health professionals, and programs that will increase our student's success and support their education. Please invest in our students and divest in police presence. Thank you for your time!  
Sincerely, Sonia Vargas

**47. Juana Meza**

**Translation by Google Translate**

June 4, 2020

Attention: President Keshia Thomas, Board of Directors, and Bob Nelson

We have received from a very good source a news that has us very concerned and outraged. The Teachers Union has stated to its members that they have reached an agreement with the Fresno Unified District that a significant cut of nearly \$ 20 million will be made, eliminating the additional 30 minutes of instruction to each of the designated schools. . These designated schools, with the intervention program, are supporting our low-income English Learners to achieve the required academic level in the subjects of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. We know that the top 10

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schools that have had experience with the additional resources (Designated Schools) have improved their scores by more than 10 points above compared to the other non-designated schools in math and 21 points more in Language Arts.

According to our source, these funds want to be used to give them a 1.5% salary increase for teachers, which outrages us for the reason that our children with high needs will be severely affected if this proposal is approved.

Please kindly ask that you as a member of the board and our representative support us and DO NOT approve of this proposal.

**48. Sam Retton**

Good afternoon.

I am a Fresno transplant, originally from Madera, and have lived here for seven years with no intention of leaving. That being said, I am concerned that FUSD is spending money on uniformed police for middle and high school campuses when I know, as someone with a history of lobbying in Sacramento for more funding for education, that money is tight and students are in need of resources like mental health services, food, technology, and textbooks.

Given the political climate and the growing number of killings of Black and Brown people, I highly encourage you to divest from Fresno PD and invest more in Fresno's youth. I graduated from Madera South High School just ten years ago and already, I have seen it go from a fairly open campus with four campus security officers students knew by name to a maze of locked chain link fences and a larger police presence. This is a waste of precious funds and is in no way preparing kids and teens for college, trade school, family life, or anything else, save maybe jail. Do your part to end the school to prison pipeline. You owe it to the youth of your city.

**49. Elisha Mendoza**

The school board needs to invest more in student's education and not police on campus. Invest more into our school's counselors (academic AND emotional). Invest more into resources for English Learning students (bilingual teachers, textbooks in native language, bilingual counselors). Invest into better nutritional options for student's meals (ask the students what THEY want to eat and work from there). USE MONEY FOR THE STUDENTS STOP FUNDING POLICE!!

**50. Jennifer Arellano**

Hello,

My name is Jennifer Arellano and I am demanding the removal of police officers from all FUSD Middle Schools and High schools.

Police presence in schools has significantly increased in both middle schools and high schools while the amount of school shootings has also increased. Police presence in schools has counterproductive effects and actually hurts our students more. When a police officer is present

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in school campuses, teachers and other staff are likely to defer students to them for “disciplining,” instead of de-escalating the students, a skill that is necessary in life.

As part of my prior employment, I was in schools in which I witnessed with my own eyes the criminalization of a student who was escalated by their own teacher. The student was held in a “restraint,” and was criminalized by the “Student Resource Officers.” While the middle school student cried in pain, one of the school officials threatened to put him in handcuffs. This incident took place at Gaston Middle School which is an area that is known to be over-policed and predominantly home to persons of color. That incident I witnessed was traumatic to the student and not handled in the students' best interest or safety.

Police officers receive 120 hours of training using force for every 8 hours in conflict resolution. Children experience trauma everyday in their homes, in their neighborhoods and in their schools. They need a person who is going to help them with conflict resolution which is something that will help **(250-word limit reached.)**

**51. Reyanne Contreras**

As a child I was raised in the fUSD and can tell you now it's not what it was before when I was raised. Short funding has caused layoffs, program cuts and activity cuts. FUSD need to unite with the local and universal movement and minimize or cut the usage of Fresno Police Department overall. As a community member I don't want my tax payer money for education going to the Police department on top of the millions they receive from expenditures. Cuts should be made and GO TOWARD THE YOUTH not the Fresno Police Department. - Reyanne Contreras

**52. Cecilia Barbosa – Voice Message**

My name is Cecilia Barbosa I am calling you regarding the budget priorities for the 2020 2021 academic year. I demand Fresno Unified to prioritize investments in youth not in cops. Money should go into investments in counselors that will benefit the youth not in cops that will kill them.

**53. Marisa Moraza**

On behalf of Fresno Barrios Unidos, we demand that FUSD board trustees prioritize youth investments and create a budget that is rooted in an equity framework. We call on the board to critically examine funding and to divest from the Fresno Police Department.

Our youth have been adamantly calling for the removal of Fresno PD on Middle and High School campuses. Our youth have faced the harsh consequences of policing on campus resulting in suspensions, expulsions, unwarranted searches, and being pushed out of school. Police on campus perpetuate the criminalization of Black and brown youth.

Students are calling for investments into their wellbeing so they can thrive and succeed in school. Our youth are loudly calling for more counselors, social workers, comprehensive wellness centers, arts programs, healing centered programs and age appropriate and culturally responsive

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behavioral health supports. We need evidence based and harm reduction centered substance use prevention/treatment and mental health services (clinical and non-clinical).

Now is the time for the district to challenge status quo “safety investments” that do not center the mission of education and instead prioritize punitive and harmful discipline measures for our Black, Latino, Special Education, houseless, foster youth, English Language Learners, and systems impacted students. We MUST move towards investments that truly cultivate safety and support for students.

There is no going back to normal. We have a unique opportunity to design a new, more human-centered, way forward. Please do not miss this opportunity to invest in our youth with heart.

**54. Carmen Zamora**

As Parent Leaders of GO Public Schools Fresno, we would like to bring forth some concerning issues that impact our children.

At the time of making budget cuts, parents want to be a part of the decision making process, especially if it is going to be cuts that affect our children directly. We would like to pose a solution to this: Could you create a parent budget and finance committee, which GO Public Schools Fresno would help select such parents (we currently have over 35 parent leaders across all 7 areas in the district that have the knowledge and skills needed to engage in such a committee), that can sit with finance decision makers to provide valuable feedback, solutions, and outcomes that benefit students, parents, and district personnel?

**55. Lorena Moreno**

We have learned that on May 20th, 2020 the district came up with four guiding principles in relation to budget cuts:

- Provide stability to school Sites
- Protect the teaching and learning environment
- Support for students
- Balanced and phased in approach to budget reductions

Parents want to know: Who came up with these principles? Why are the principles so vague? In response, parents would like these to be more specific and furthermore, there is nothing in these principles that include parents? Why not?

Secondly, do you already have a plan for when our children will return back to school? Parents want to know the plan in advance so that the district has time to prepare parents and if possible include parents in the planning process so that they can provide their input? In addition, how do you plan to communicate this plan to FUSD families in a way that gives them time to prepare and

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have choices. Parents who do not want to send their children to school because of safety concerns should be given alternatives.

**56. Evelyn Gomez – Voice Message**

Hi, I am Evelyn Gomez and I am calling for budget priorities for Fresno Unified. I want to let you know that I want Fresno Unified to prioritize counseling in schools instead of having fully armed police officers in the school. We need to prioritize our kid's mental health and be able to support them and having police officers is not doing that. We're spending way too much money on police officers, we need to make that money go elsewhere make it go to school counselors and this will help our students to be successful instead of criminalizing them and having police officers for them there ready to target them and giving them fear when it is historically know that these police officers are targeting our students of color. So, I am telling you now we need to prioritize our money and it needs to go to school counselors for our kid's mental health.

**57. Jessica Morales**

Dear FUSD Board of Trustees,

I am a former FUSD student writing to you to take action in the true need for systemic change. Start recognizing the trauma and toxic stress and adjust the policies, practices, and funding to end the school-to-prison pipeline instead of making it stronger. Our students are brilliant beyond measure and deserve an environment that promotes healing and cultural pride. Now more than ever students will need counselors, social workers, and school psychologists - not cops. I trust that you will take this moment to listen, reflect, and act with the privilege and power that you have.

**58. Mike Espinoza**

We recognize that the district must navigate the downturn in the economy (as we all must) and will face some difficult decisions on how to make budget cuts in the 10s of millions of dollars. On behalf of our parent leaders and staff, GO Public Schools urges Fresno Unified to adhere to the following core values when making these decisions:

- **Transparency:** a commitment to be in deep relationship with parents and other community stakeholders when making hard budget decisions; we feel that the district can and MUST do a better job of including parent voices in the decision making process.
- **Equity at the Center:** We believe that not every student needs the same set of supports and, indeed, the highest need student populations need greater supports than their more privileged peers. The district can and SHOULD keep budget cuts as far away from the highest need student populations as possible.
- **Protect Key Programs:** We ask the district do everything possible to protect and maintain key programs that have had a positive impact on student achievement among our most vulnerable student populations (ie. English learners, students of color, foster youth and others). These include especially the Designated Schools program, and the A4 Program.

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**59. Analia Rangel-Garcia**

To who it may concern-

I am writing to suggest and recommend that Fresno Unified ends their contracts with the police and instead invest in mental health services for students that are in dire need of assistance through a trauma informed lens. This can be of incredible support to their safety and the general safety of the school community in Fresno Unified. Please prioritize student needs.

**60. Shawn Padero**

Hello,

I would like to express my concern on the 2020/21 budget priorities for Fresno Unified.

It has come to my attention that Fresno Unified pays for fully uniformed officers on all middle school and high school campuses.

It is important to prioritize in our youth and not the police force. As you know, Fresno Unified is a school district that serves our lower-income youth.

I understand safety is the utmost importance, but police officers do not equate to safety especially for minority populations which is illustrated in this research article, <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>. For example, you are able to see here that black males are about 2.5x more likely to be killed by officers. This with the psychological aspect of having a police officer present is not ideal for our youth.

Also in this Fresno Bee article, <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/education-lab/article222815785.html>

“Census data show that about 27,000 of the 5-to-17-year-olds living within the district’s borders come from families with incomes of less than \$25,000 per year for a family of four.”

where Superintendent Bob Nelson was also quoted regarding Fresno unified students (in the same article)

“By the time the kids come to us, the inequities are already in place,” Fresno Unified Superintendent Bob Nelson said. “They’ve heard fewer words, they’ve read fewer words. They have less access to everything, from literacy to support to nutrition.”

It is right to invest in student success, so please consider your stance and do what is right for the youth of Fresno. Thank you, Shawn Padero

**61. Karina Gallardo – Voice Message**

Hi, this is Karina and I am calling on the budget priorities for 2020 and 2021. And I am submitting for the budget priorities and

**62. Rosita Figueroa**

Fresno Unified School Board,

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I am urging you, as the aunt of a future FUSD student, as a youth services worker, as a FUSD alumni, as a community member please end the contract with FPD. What those students need are more counselors.

As a youth service worker it saddens me that a senior who is about to graduate does not know her counselor name!!! It is always me introducing them for the first time!

We need to start prioritizing and center healing into school campuses. We can't expect students to thrive when they are being criminalized. Please stop giving money to FPD in Community,

**63. FE FRESNO Familias Empoderadas**

To whom it may concern.

FUSD Board Members Bob Nelson

Through this message we want to express our concerns on different issues.

Different people from FUSD have mentioned to us that the approval time for LCAP has been extended until December of this year. We are concerned that from February to the moment FUSD has refused to meet to hear the comments and suggestions of parents on an environment where they feel comfortable. FUSD has failed us to maintain a safe, ethical and transparent environment. We ask that FUSD comply with guidelines under LCFF, LCAP and Brown Act.

Also, that FUSD consider the requests that the group of parent leaders collected at the different public meetings from November to February. Such requests that have been submitted in previous meetings both public and private.

Yesterday some parents received a flyer via email, from schools where it is mentioned that the last meetings of ELAC and DELAC will be replaced through a video. This is confusing for parents, as a video is not a substitute for transparent EL parent involvement.

It is also mentioned that parents can submit our opinions online via the link or by phone. However, the access links do not work and assigned phone is an automated machine. By history, this method of collecting comments and suggestions from parents is not effective. Instead we ask for virtual meetings, where all parents are invited. That FUSD provides a reliable and welcoming environment, where parents can have the opportunity to discuss **(250-word limit reached)**

**64. Denise Barajas**

Fresno Unified Board Trustees,

I implore you - listen - to the calls of the people from across the world. We are no longer asking, we are demanding change! Follow the example of the Minneapolis Public School Board - cancel your contract with police and prioritize investments in youth instead.

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If you truly care about the wellbeing of our youth and of this city, you'll realize what we have in place right now is antiquated, inadequate and more damaging than it is helpful. I challenge you to re-imagine with community how much better our schools could be if only we invested in them rather than in law enforcement. In Community, Denise Barajas, 93702.

**65. Josefa F. Vega**

I urge FUSD to withdraw funding from police on our school campuses and allocate those dollars to infrastructure and services that prioritize the lives of our students.

I demand that our campuses have lead free drinking water, lead is shown to cause development difficulties as well as negative emotional effects such as mood swings and irritability.

I demand that our campuses offer robust and culturally competent mental health services per school campus. Suicide is an epidemic and as advocates of children and students we must do all we can to prevent the loss of life among our youth.

These demands ensure the safety of our students and their ongoing wellbeing.

Those who aim to "diversify" SROs must consider that black and brown police are still cops, they are programmed to be racist and violent, they have never been the answer. They are weapons of the oppressor. In community, Josefa F. Vega

**66. Arthur Claybon – Voice Message in audible**

**67. Evelyn Garzon**

Fresno School Board,

As a mother of a ten year old hispanic brown son, as a youth advocate, as a FUSD alumni, and as a community member, I urge that you get cops off your campuses. I urge that you terminate the contracts with Fresno PD and stop giving this over funded entity more money.

I have not only heard but witness countless young children being criminalized, cops dragging unarmed girls into the office. Is this what schools really become? Are you as board members really ok with this? Schools should be flooded with counselors, therapist, social workers who are trained and have a deeper understanding with our youth. We as adults and professional need to guide our future generations to healing centers and not prisons.

Have you all not realized that Fresno PD are not here to serve us? What more do you all need to see or hear to realize we do not need them on our campuses? Once again I ask that you remove them from our schools. Evelyn Garzon

**68. Presley Fletcher**

Dear Whomever it May Concern,

I am emailing to exercise my community concerns about the excessive amount of police force on High school & Middle School campuses. The money used to pay the salaries of multiple officers

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on multiple campuses can better be used to benefit students in this district. With the amount paid for 2-3 officers per campus, the money could better be allocated to extra curricular activities, community help programs, and better/more counselors to guide students to a future rich in education. In previous years at my own high school in Clovis Unified, we had one cop per campus & she was hardly seen outside of the lunch period hours. Most fights on campus were dealt by non-police RC faculty & administrators. I don't see the need for police force to be used in such an excess in Fresno Unified. If the only difference you can find between Clovis vs. Fresno is the demographic of students, you might want to reconsider your thought process on why police force is "needed" in this district. Sincerely, Presley Fletcher

**69. Arron Ridenour**

Hello,

I am a Fresno resident that has lived my life in Fresno and grown up in the FUSD system. I would like you to reconsider allocations of your very limited funds from multiple police officers on your campuses to other programs that will help your main goal: the academic success of your students. I cannot find any statistical data that supports have multiple police officers on your campus. Your job as an educational institution is to ensure the preparation of your students for a higher learning institution or a vocation, this move will help you achieve that goal. Arron Ridenour

**70. Karla Galindo**

To whom this may concern,

I ask you to prioritize investing in youth and not police. Please cut ties with the police and instead offer more counseling for youth. Police in no way help students by being at schools, they most likely cause it trigger trauma for students. I also encourage you to have a conversation with students about how they feel with police on campus. It is their schools they need to be included in the conversation. We must invest in youth. Thank you, Karla Galindo

**71. Corina Coronado**

Please prioritize investments in our youth not cops! Our students need more counselors, not more police enforcement!

**72. Nicholas Lara**

Fresno School Board,

Our youth in Fresno need to feel that their school is looking out for their health and wellbeing. Policing and criminalizing students is not the answer to that. We need less police on campus and more healthcare and wellness oriented staff to guide our youth.

Police and security represent no guidance, but authority and discipline. Instead of creating a culture that is fear based and in alliance with the school to prison pipeline, we can invest our

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funds in mental health workers, wellness coaches, youth mentors, access to confidential clinics on campus.

We can also take time to focus on physical and financial needs of students. If it is mandated for students to be sent to school, they should not be required to pay for their breakfast or lunch. Too many families struggle with food insecurity which detracts the wellness of our youth. Providing free school lunches and forgiving lunch debt is a great place to start.

Can police solve these underlying concerns that have been overlooked by our school board? Given the culture that we are in and the communities you serve, take time to reflect on your funding allocations and see how it's impacting our youth. Listen to youth and take their voices seriously. Respectfully, --Nico Lara

**73. Justin Allen**

Fresno school Board,

As a community member, FUSD employee, and former FUSD student I am advising you to end Fresno PD contracts, and completely ending all funding for the police department.

The money schools receive from the community should be about creating a healthy learning environment Rather than instilling fear in young people. Sincerely, Justin Allen, 93703

**74. Shelby King**

In light of recent events, the Minneapolis Board of Education has resolved to end its contract with the Minneapolis Police Department which funded School Resource Officers. This decision was made with the safety of students in mind, as evidence nation-wide shows that Black and other people of color are disproportionately targeted by police and consequently funneled through the justice system. As a Fresno citizen and educator, I'm calling on Fresno Unified to follow in the footsteps of the Minneapolis School Board and redirect funds for School Officers toward resources that prioritize the safety, wellbeing, and life-long success of our students. Fresno Unified should redirect these funds toward proven strategies for improving the academic and social success of students of all backgrounds, such as comprehensive restorative justice programs, trauma-informed classroom management, and in-school mental health counseling. By providing students with compassionate and well-funded support networks, Fresno Unified will invest in the lifelong social-emotional health of its students and set them up for success in college and careers.

**75. Luis Garcia – Voice Message**

My name is Luis Garcia and I am a Fresno resident and I do have a concern with the Fresno Unified School District spending way too much money of their budget on police, on having police on campuses. I believe that money could be redirected to school programs, music programs and more importantly education. I don't believe that our kids should be policed uh 24-hour basically

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surveillance. I don't think that makes for a very good atmosphere for them to grow up. I am concerned and I hope that you guys do the right thing and reinvest those funds in education and not policing. Thank you.

**76. David Bouttavong**

Hello Superintendent Nelson & Board Trustees,

My name is David Bouttavong, pronouns, he, him, his. Have been a long-time community educator, having taught at juvenile hall and FUSD classes. I am urging you to invest in our young people. The health and safety of our students is the utmost priority. We do not need law enforcement at our schools. Having law enforcement on campus sets the stage for the school to prison pipeline, especially for our black and brown students. This is evident and clear, nearly all my students at juvenile hall were black and brown. What we need is more counselors, more trauma informed training for staff and equitable access to school supplies/technology. This pandemic has clearly highlighted the equity with our students and that is what the budget should reflect. Thank you.

**77. Michael Gonzalez**

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am writing this e-mail as a public comment on Fresno Unified's potential budget priorities for 2020/21. I ask that the Board of Trustees stop prioritizing funding for policing and instead consider prioritizing their investments in resources that will allow youth from marginalized communities to thrive and succeed (i.e. culturally responsive support programs, behavioral health services etc.). Policing should not be a priority because it is a system that is continually used to oppress students from marginalized communities. It is also important to understand that the safest schools and communities aren't the ones with the most police and police surveillance. Thank you, Michael Gonzalez, Fresno Constituent

**78. Alex Williams**

Fresno Unified must take a stand to support racial justice among the Fresno Police Department as it pays for uniformed officers on all high school and middle school campuses.

Fresno Unified must support designated schools! Systemic racism has placed students from these schools in a position to get less simply because of their neighborhood and their family history. It is not their choice. These children are innocent and deserve designated school funds. Please, please help these neighborhoods. My son is starting school soon and I am considering moving JUST so their school experience can be better because it will affect his entire life. The vast majority of people do not have the option to move. Do the right thing. Thank you, Alex Williams

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**79. Christina Soto**

I am writing to implore to FUSD board to divert funding from an already overly funded FPD and invest it in our underserved schools. We know police on campuses do not improve student outcomes. Quite the contrary, my own children have expressed fear and anxiety about officers on campus. We need more and better programming and more resources for our youth to be successful not cops. Councilors and teachers are already overextended and too overloaded to be effective. This hurts EVERYONE. The police department gets more than enough funding and can and should help schools as part of their job without taking money from students. The amount of our tax dollars that already goes to policing is astronomical. It is absolutely wrong for the Fresno Unified School District to help divert even more of our tax dollars away from students' education and into an over-inflated police budget. Especially when they have intentionally stood in the way of policies that would benefit our youth, like Measure P. I urge FUSD to consider the movement currently taking place and do the right thing. Listen to the demands that the community has put forward and pulled funding from FPD or we will elect people who will! Christina Soto

**80. Daisy Pelayo**

Hello Fresno Unified Board Trustees,

Today I write to you to let you know that I would like for you to consider your budget priorities with more critical and culturally competent thinking. To really understand the community of students you serve. And to truly be a leader and look deeper into the needs of students. It is okay to not follow what has always "worked in the past" or "how it's been done in the past." That narrative can be dangerous at times. As a member of the community and a product of the Fresno Unified School District I urge you to invest in our youth today. It is a slap in the face to parents and students when Fresno Unified pays for fully uniformed cops on all middle school and high school campuses instead of investing in student success. Please re-prioritize your investments because where you invest will speak louder than what anyone will say of you. Thank you for listening. Daisy Pelayo

**81. Daisy Goilburn**

Fresno Unified currently pays for fully uniformed cops on all High School and Middle School campuses. This appears to be misdirected resources that we could instead put into counselors for Fresno's youth. As someone who went to Tenaya Middle School and felt fully unsupported and not safe there, the uniformed cops obviously do not assist in the way you think you do. Thank you. I hope you keep this email and all other comments received from the public into consideration when looking over the budget. -Daisy Goilburn

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**82. Sandra Celedon**

Dear Board President Thomas:

Fresno Building Healthy Communities is a coalition of community and faith-based organizations, residents, and young people working to create #OneHealthyFresno, where all children and families can live healthy, safe, and productive lives.

As schools across California are bracing for budget shortfalls due to COVID-19 economic impacts, we commend Fresno Unified's stated commitment "to sustain and monitor a financial plan that ensures the viability of the district" and its pledge to "implement, continue or expand practices proven to raise student achievement; and eliminate practices that do not." We urge you to prioritize funding services for our most vulnerable and under resourced students and minimize budget cuts to student programs by taking the following actions:

**Divest in ShotSpotter Technology**

Since 2016, Fresno Unified has used education dollars to subsidize this policing technology against community objections. Studies suggest that ShotSpotter technology is ineffective in increasing safety in our communities and by extension our schools[i]. The dollars allocated to subsidize this technology should be repurposed to support English learners, foster youth, and low-income students.

**Remove Cops from Campus and Stop Funding Police**

Fresno Unified subsidizes fully uniformed police officers on high school and middle school campuses under the premise that students will be safer. In fact, according to a report by the ACLU, police presence in schools has negative effects on students[ii]. Specifically, low income students and students of color are more likely to be arrested in schools than their white counterparts. The City of Fresno already spends 53% **(250-word limit reached)**

**83. Claudia Vargas**

Agenda Item – 1 Subject - Budget

I pray that our schoolboard members are not influenced the FTA's Leadership's disingenuous proposal to cut 15 days of instructional time from our students, extra supports and professional learning time for teachers at Designated Schools. I hope that the school board keeps the needs of our students at the center of their decision making process. Our students are precious and deserved the best from all of us. Our students' education should not be sacrificed based on the whims of the FTA president. The budget should not be balanced at their expense of our neediest students.

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**UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**1. Francine Farber**

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

To: Supt. Bob Nelson, Board Chair, Ed Gomes, Brian Wall

We want to say some words of thanks for Principal Dave Peters' devotion to Steve's Scholars these past three years. He is leaving to take on a new assignment and we would like to recognize all he has done for our special project.

From the beginning of his tenure at Tehipite he was a cheerleader for Steve's Scholars and was totally enthusiastic about what it might do for his students and families. It required a good deal of extra work on his part, but he always made sure everything got done in first-class fashion. Each month he led a team meeting, created the agenda and necessary documents, and followed through with tasks that he took on. He concerned himself with every detail. He wanted the students to get medals, shirts, and experience motivational and life-broadening events like concerts, museums, and theatre. Steve's Scholars also had the opportunity to attend a regional football game. He always had his students' welfare at heart and at the same time was so considerate and supportive of us and our family.

It was Principal Peters' idea to have a graduation banquet for our scholarship winners and he insisted on doing it right. He wanted his students and families to experience the local equivalent of "fine dining" and made sure we had real dinner service and not paper and plastic. He coordinated **(250-word limit reached)**

**2. Juana Iris Meza**

Given the current situation we find ourselves in, parents have to fill the role of the primary educator, therefore, parents need support services in how to navigate the different online platforms that FUSD schools are using to provide distance learning instruction. In addition, parents need 1:1 meetings with teachers so that teachers can guide parents on how to teach their children the concepts, specifically in the primary grades; where a solid foundation in reading and math is crucial to the future success of our students. Having 1:1 also helps both parents and teachers determine the level of learning of the student and carve an individualized plan for that child.

In order to help meet these needs, we humbly suggest that Parent University create learning modules for parents in all three languages. These modules could include:

- Microsoft Teams for Parents:
- Learn how to install, navigate, and support your child via Teams

## **JUNE 04, 2020 Special Board Meeting**

Public Comment Items appear in order received by area.

- Office 365: How to install, learn the components, and navigate the software to set your child up for success.
- How to access, install, and navigate i-ready
- How to access, install, and navigate wonders
- Setting parents up for a successful 1:1 with their child's teacher
- What does being at grade level mean for each individual grade? What must your student learn by the end of each grade?