



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
2309 TULARE STREET  
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR  
FRESNO, CA 93721-2287  
[www.fresnounified.org/board](http://www.fresnounified.org/board)

## **MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING Fresno Unified School District**

**Fresno, California  
September 16, 2020**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 Paragraph 3, the September 16, 2020 Board of Education meeting was held via teleconferencing and was 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: 982 851 552#;  
**Teleconference Line – Spanish:** Dial in: +1 559-512-2623, Passcode: 951 997 541#.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on September 16, 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 Regular Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. and ADJOURNED to Closed Session to address items one through seven.

The Board RECONVENED in Open Session at 6:02 p.m.

### **Reporting Out of Closed Session**

- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board President Thomas, the Board took action in closed session to approve a resignation agreement and release of all claims between Fresno Unified School District and employee #1046186, by a roll call vote of 4-3-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, and Board President Thomas. NOES: Board Members: Jonasson Rosas, Mills, and Major Slatic.
- On a motion by Board Member Mills, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board took action in closed session on a Level IV Complaint appeal to accept the panels recommendation and decision by sustaining the Superintendent's findings and conclusion by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas.

## **HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives**

The Board heard a report from Alexis Gamino, Sonny Sapien, and Jade Johannes, Student Advisory Board representatives from Hoover High School; and students from Ahwahnee Middle School spoke about what they love about Ahwahnee.

## **HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- Superintendent started by taking a moment to honor and recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, which started on September 15, and Mexican Independence Day. National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latinx Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries. Today marks the day in 1810 that Miguel Hidalgo, the namesake of Hidalgo Elementary, called for Mexico's Independence from Spain. Happy Independence Day to our Mexican Fresno Unified Family Members and I encourage all of the Fresno Unified Family to take this month to dig deeper into Hispanic and Latinx history and heritage.
- Recognized September is Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. Every year thousands of individuals die by suicide, leaving behind their friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss. It is important that we prioritize suicide prevention and mental health especially in this time of uncertainty and we all need to find ways to connect and support each other. In efforts to support our students and families we have a team in Fresno Unified of School Psychologist and School Social Workers who are providing prevention information and training to our students and staff about suicide this month as we continue providing ongoing crisis support and interventions during and after tragedy. Our district has also partnered with Gaggle which is a safety management tool analyzing data 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with trained safety experts who review content such as suicide and informs the district of any comments that draw concern.
- Reminded everyone to complete the 2020 Census. The Census must be completed by the end of September and it can be completed online, by phone, or by working with a Census worker who comes to your door. Our community cannot afford to miss the opportunity to ensure our community is properly represented.
- Announced our partners though Parent University kicked off their first week of Parent Learning virtual workshops. We were thrilled to see the great response from our families. We had over 220 parents join these sessions on Microsoft Teams and Zoom, and we had over 4,500 parents participating through Facebook Live in English, Spanish and Hmong. Utilizing Facebook Live is a new tool for our partners and we are very happy to provide this option to our parents especially as we are all doing our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. There is still time to join our fall cohorts of parent learning so head over to [parentu.fresnounified.org](http://parentu.fresnounified.org) for more information.

- Stated the district's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative invites staff to participate in a watch party to continue our cultural proficiency journey. Part 1 is October 1, where we will watch the documentary PushOut: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. Part 2 is on October 8, where we will discuss the movie on Microsoft Teams. All employees are invited for the Multicultural Quarter 1 Event. Registration is required for an invitation with details. The registration deadline is Thursday, September 17. Find the invitation with information to RSVP in your most recent issue of the Employee Zone Newsletter.
- Shared last week we announced our Virtual Innovation Program available to all grade levels.
- Shared the I Pledge campaign was launched this week. Collectively, we want to pledge to do our part to support students through distance learning and to stop the spread of COVID-19.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

**Member Major Slatic** – Shared emails received from Constituents regarding the special education distance learning program. Requested Board Communications on the topics as follows: 1) Discipline policy during distance learning; 2) How many students are not engaged with distance learning, no contact thus far, attempts made successful vs unsuccessful, would like the Board Communication to provide information to the granular level.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** – Recognized efforts of team pertaining to home visits. Requested how attendance compares to before distance learning was in place. Expressed appreciation for the Student Collaborative effort and requested written feedback from the group. Shared concern pertaining to Early Learning enrollment and requested a Board Communication. Requested follow-up on Dual Immersion enrollment.

**Member Mills** – Acknowledged Fresno High School's Back to School Night. Shared information pertaining to a special Zoom meeting of the Fresno County School Trustees Association on September 29, 2020.

**Member Islas** – Recognized Mexican Independence Day. Shared highlights from the McLane Region: Leavenworth and Wishon Elementary reached 100% technology distribution. Congratulated two students from Scandinavian Middle School who were accepted into a youth leadership program at the Marjorie Mason Center. Thanked Mayfair, Norseman, and Rowell Elementary Schools for their work with the Central California Foodbank and Every Neighborhood Partnership to help with meal distributions to families. Expressed excitement for the Virtual Innovation Program and requested to connect with the Farm to Table Challenge. Requested information pertaining to actions in response to Police Reform.

**Board President Thomas** – Recognized staff members in the Edison Region for their amazing work. Commented on the unveiling of the mural at King Elementary School, and thanked Amy Idsvoog and Summer Gaston-Gehris for the invitation to the unveiling. Requested staff to mitigate school events scheduled on evenings that hold Board Meetings. Thanked staff and fellow Board Members for their help.

**Member Cazares** – Thanked teachers for their work in distance learning. Congratulated Latino people. Requested a Board Communication regarding Fresno City College Baseball Field and Mascots.

**Member Davis** – Congratulated Lynn Rocha Salazar on her new venture as an instructional scientist with CORE.

**Student Member Camarillo** – Encouraged students to keep persevering and to use supports available.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

For the record, there were zero submissions received for public comments for the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Consent Agenda was approved on a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas.

### **A. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **A-1, APPROVE Personnel List**

**APPROVED as recommended** in, the Personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.

#### **A-2, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting**

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes from the September 02, 2020 Board Workshop and the September 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

#### **A-3, APPROVE NAVEX Global Service Agreement for Equity and Inclusion**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with NAVEX Global for Equity and Inclusion.

#### **A-4, APPROVE Amendment No. 1 to Agreement with First Student, Inc. for Pupil Transportation Services – Special Education Programs**

**APPROVED as recommended**, Amendment No. 1 to Fresno Unified’s agreement with First Student, Inc. for Pupil Transportation Services – Special Education Programs.

#### **A-5, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policy and Exhibit**

**APPROVED as recommended**, proposed revisions for one Board Policy (BP) and one Exhibit (E): BP 6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials, and E 9270 Conflict of Interest – Statement of Economic Form 700.

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

For the record eight submissions of public comment were received for Unscheduled Oral Communications. They are as follows:

### **1. Ashley De La Rosa**

Dear Fresno Unified Board Members,

First and foremost, I want to applaud your efforts in ensuring that Fresno Unified students feel heard and cared for. We look to your district as an innovator putting its community first.

I am emailing to request that a resolution in support of Proposition 15 - the Schools & Communities First initiative - be placed on the agenda at your next meeting. (Please see resolution attached)

Now, more than ever, it is critical that we close corporate commercial property tax loopholes and reclaim \$12 billion for the essential services and programs we depend on. The pandemic, transition to distance learning, and recent wildfires have made it clear: we must prioritize resources for essential workers, safety net services, first responders, teachers, educational support. Thank you again for your support and leadership. Respectfully, Ashley De La Rosa, Dolores Huerta Foundation.

### **2. Jasmine Pantoja**

Hello, my name is Jasmine Pantoja and I am a community member that believes greatly that Proposition 15 would reclaim \$12 billion every year for our schools and local services by closing corporate property tax loopholes -- all while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture.

I support Schools and Communities First also known as Prop 15 because it will provide funding for public education including K-12 and community colleges. I strongly urge the Fresno Unified School district Board to support prop 15. Sincerely, Jasmine Pantoja.

### **3. Ricardo Fonseca**

Hello, my name is Ricardo and I am a community member. Proposition 15 would reclaim \$12 billion every year for our schools and local services by closing

corporate property tax loopholes -- all while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture.

I support Schools and Communities First because it will provide funding for public education including K-12 and community colleges. I strongly urge the Fresno Unified School district Board to support prop 15. Sincerely, Ricardo Fonseca.

**4. Cesilia Acevedo**

Hello, my name is Cesilia Acevedo and I am a FUSD community member. Proposition 15 would reclaim \$12 billion every year for our schools and local services by closing corporate property tax loopholes -- all while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture.

I support Schools and Communities First because it will provide funding for public education including K-12 and community colleges. I strongly urge the Fresno Unified School district Board to support prop 15. Sincerely, Cesilia Acevedo.

**5. Virginia Basurto**

Hello, my name Virginia Basurto and I am a community member. Proposition 15 would reclaim \$12 billion every year for our schools and local services by closing corporate property tax loopholes -- all while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture.

I support Schools and Communities First because it will provide funding for public education including K-12 and community colleges. I strongly urge the Fresno Unified School district Board to support prop 15. Thank you for your time and consideration. Virginia Basurto.

**6. Pam Whalin – Voicemail Transcribed**

Hi, yes, my name is Pam Whalin and I live on 4773N. Arthur. I am in the Fresno School District. My grandson goes to Wilson and I'm calling you to urge you to support Proposition 15, it would bring really desperately needed money into our Fresno Unified School District and uh you know we have to you know fight to get those resources for our students here in uh Fresno. So, please I urge you to support, uh to pass a resolution supporting Proposition 15, so we can get more money for our kids. Thank you, bye.

**7. Cecilia Castro**

Dear Board Members of the Fresno Unified School District,

My name is Cecilia Castro and I am the Deputy Director of the Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF). The DHF works with parents and youth from across the Central Valley including those from Fresno Unified. In fact, our youth have come before the board several times during the LCAP budgeting process to advocate for additional support services to impact and increase academic success. Now more

than ever, it is crucial that FUSD supports the Schools and Communities First Proposition 15 Resolution. This proposition that will be on the California Ballot this 2020 election, will generate \$51 million dollars for Fresno Unified annually. Prop 15 does not hurt small businesses that are valued at less than 3 million dollars. Instead it makes corporations pay their fair share of property taxes and generates funding for our schools and communities that desperately need it. I urge the board to consider adopting this resolution that will greatly benefit the students, teachers, and families of FUSD.

**8. Dolores Huerta**

Proposition 15 will bring in badly needed funds for our schools and communities by making the large industrial corporations pay their fair share of property taxes. Unlike their false ads, this will not affect homeowners or small businesses that make \$3 million a year in revenues. Agricultural lands are also exempt. Please vote "Yes" to support this resolution. Dolores Huerta, President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

**B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**B-6, HOLD a Public Hearing and ADOPT Resolution in the Matter of Sufficiency of Instructional Materials to Comply with the Requirements of Education Code Section 60119**

For the record, Board President Thomas opened the Public Hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record, zero submissions were received for public comment on Agenda Item B-6.

For the record, there were no questions or comments from Board Members pertaining to Agenda Item B-6.

For the record, Board President Thomas closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Mills, Agenda Item B-6 was adopted by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas.

**B-7, DISCUSS and ADOPT Fresno Unified School District's Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record, zero submissions were received for public comment on Agenda Item B-7.

For the record, Board Members had questions/comments pertaining to Agenda Item B-7. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to if the district provided translations and made available to the public. Requested clarity as to if a notice was provided that the materials were available on the website. Requested the district to message to families if item is approved. Requested the district to exhaust every communication channel available when communicating with families.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board President Thomas, Agenda Item B-7 was adopted by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas.

**B-8, PRESENT and DISCUSS Strategic Initiatives to Enhance Learning During the 2020/21 School Year**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record, zero submissions were received for public comment on Agenda Item B-8.

For the record, Board Members had questions/comments pertaining to Agenda Item B-8. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity pertaining to how a teacher would work with students that have short attention spans while using distance learning. Expressed appreciation to panel members and appreciation for the effort teachers put into distance learning. Shared personal experience as to how teachers have messaged or communicated with student. Expressed concern as to how the district maintains acceptable academics and making sure students are taking advantage of supports. Expressed concern pertaining to students not showing faces during distance learning. Requested clarity as to how the district supports special education students with IEPs during distance learning. Asked if there are other supports which might be helpful with the special education distance learning experience.

**B-9, RECEIVE, PRESENT and DISCUSS Constituent Services Reporting**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record, zero submissions were received for public comment on Agenda Item B-9.

For the record, Board Members had questions/comments pertaining to Agenda Item B-9. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to if neighboring districts have Constituent Services Offices. Recognized the response time for calls. Asked if there was anything more the Board could do to support the work. Requested clarity on the return rate for the Fresno area 2020 Census. Expressed appreciation for Mrs. Plascencia's work.



**C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**

For the record, there were no items for this section of the agenda.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Thomas RECONVENED Closed Session at 8:20 p.m. to continue previous discussion.

For the record, with no action to report out of Closed Session the Board Meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:45 p.m.