



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  
December 09, 2020**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 Paragraph 3, the December 09, 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 December 09, 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 six.

The Board RECONVENED in Open Session at 6:17 p.m.

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

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Mills the Board took action in closed session, 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 to promote Michelle Anderson to Principal V at Sunnyside High School.

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

The Board heard a report from Mia Ferguson, Student Advisory Board representative from Bullard High School, and students from Tenaya Middle School.

### **HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- Expressed appreciation for the holiday season. Earlier this week the Cabinet team did an icebreaker where we shared some of our favorite pieces of the holiday

season, and knowing how different this year is, we shared how we are working to stay connected with our colleagues. I also spent time with our Student Voice Collaborative earlier this week and our students shared the truly tough time they are currently experiencing and the incredible lack of connection they are feeling. I know this holiday season is very different, and safety is our top priority, but I hope that you all take some time to tweak your traditions, ask others about their traditions, and maybe try some new things this year to celebrate and deeply connect with your immediate family. Find ways to connect safely and find your bright spots of gratitude, no matter how dark things may look and feel at times.

- Reminded parents that Friday, December 11 is the last day for elementary parents to have their voices heard through the survey regarding in-person schedule options when we reach the Orange tier as a county. This 2-minute survey is important to ensure your opinion is included as we plan for an eventual return to on-campus instruction.
- Shared all second semester schedules are up on the website. Starting Tuesday, January 12 when students return from their winter break, they will have more live instruction time with teachers, which we are hoping will lessen the independent workload outside of live instruction time. We have heard from our students, especially our secondary students, that the level of independent work they have been assigned has been quite overwhelming this first semester and we want to address that and support our students in this time.
- Reminded everyone the LCAP survey is on its way shortly. Our LCAP survey is your chance to weigh in on how we budget and allocate our resources to best serve our students, so keep an eye for SchoolMessengers and Rapid Alert texts, as well as our website and social media for more information on how you can take the survey and how you can get involved in the regional LCAP town hall meetings coming in January and February.
- Reached out to everyone as the 39th Annual Fresno County Academic Decathlon needs 175 interview and speech judges for their virtual event this year. The event will be held on Saturday, January 30. Sign up by emailing Mike Jones at [mike.jones@fresnounified.org](mailto:mike.jones@fresnounified.org).
- Reminded our community the Southeast Asian Family Education Conference will be held virtually next Friday, December 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will have Renee Ya, Chief Operations Officer of Tiger Byte Studios, and Krysada “Binly” Phounsiri, professional dancer, poet, engineer, and photographer as our keynote speakers. We will have plenty of workshops available for our students and parents in Hmong, Lao, Punjabi and Kher. There will also be resources available, entertainment, and some great raffle prizes including a 50-inch TV, laptop and gift cards. You can register by heading to [asianfamily.eventxtra.com](http://asianfamily.eventxtra.com) or by calling Parent University at 559-457-3390.

- Shared this year we received more than 100 additional nominations for our Excellence in Education awards. You all want to highlight your colleagues going above and beyond more than ever and I am so grateful for that. Thank you for your engagement and we are looking forward to announcing finalists shortly.
- Congratulated the Food Services team for being awarded a \$100,000 grant from Albertson's Companies Foundation which will allow the District to purchase two new vans to help increase our meal delivery services to some of our students in highest need.
- Thanked the DEI Praxis Collaborative for another great newsletter. One video shared, has made its rounds through the District and I want to take a few minutes to share it and express my sincere and deep gratitude for our Fresno Unified Family and the incredible work you all have been doing on behalf of our students, families and communities through this pandemic. We love you. The video was played for the audience.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

**Member Major Slatic:** Requested granular detail of the district's contact tracing protocol and messaging.

**Member Mills:** Requested information on how the district communicates to families and staff incidents of positive COVID-19 cases within Fresno Unified.

**Member Islas:** Reminded staff Fresno County is moving in the opposite direction with more cases of COVID-19 being reported every day and encouraged people to follow health guidelines.

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** Commented it is important to know protocols for messaging COVID-19 cases and urged the district to error on the side of caution when reporting outbreaks. Referenced a board communication pertaining to Comprehensive Health and Sexual Education and asked if this subject could be contracted out or expanded to allow experts in the field teach the subject. Congratulated Early Learning. Referenced the crisis report protocol outline the Board received and asked that it be made more comprehensive, more information be provided.

**Board Clerk Davis:** Referenced the Winter Session Board Communication and asked if the Edgenuity platform could be used for elementary and middle school students. Thanked Member Major Slatic and Superintendent Nelson for attending the shopping spree sponsored by Veteran's Hospital which the East Fresno Kiwanis Club also supported.

**Board President Thomas:** Requested staff to be sure to follow through and process Board Member requests.

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

The Board received zero submissions for public comment for items on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Consent Agenda with the exception of items A7 and A15, which were pulled for further discussion, was approved 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.

### **A. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A-1, APPROVE Personnel List**

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

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

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes from the November 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

**A-3, APPROVE Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Foundation Agreement for Sixth Grade Virtual Camp**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement for The Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Foundation which provides sixth grade students with an opportunity to experience a virtual day-at-camp complete with direct instruction and synchronous hands-on activities.

**A-4, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Amanda Nicolson, LLC**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Amanda Nicolson, LLC. Services support our Autism programs, IEP behavior services, outside evaluations and assessments, coaching and professional learning.

**A-5, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Imagine Learning**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Imagine Learning. This contract allows certified teachers to focus on migrant students and support them with tailored classroom resources to bring them up to grade level.

**A-6, APPROVE Use of Individual Piggyback Contracts**

**Approved as recommended**, information regarding piggyback contracts

recommended for use during the remainder of 2020/21 for efficient and cost-effective procurement, in addition to piggyback contracts approved by the Board on June 17, 2020 and subsequently.

**A-7, APPROVE Revised Measure M Investment Priorities**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a revised recommendation for Measure M Investment Priorities based on feedback received at the December 1, 2020 Special Board Meeting.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-7. A summary is as follows: A Board Member requested a follow up meeting with Ms. Temple to discuss how to format material which will show facility projects, listed project by project with how much was spent and what was purchased.

On a motion by Board President Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, Agenda Item A-7 was approved 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.

**A-8, DENY Claim GL20-0924-5107**

**Denied as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by Miguel Herrera, case GL20-0924-5107.

**A-9, DENY Claim GL20-0924-5133**

**Denied as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by Sabrina Juarez, case GL20-0924-5133.

**A-10, RATIFY Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Collaborative Learning Solutions**

**Ratified as recommended**, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Collaborative Learning Solutions.

**A-11, RATIFY Grant Application to the California Department of Education – Special Education Alternative Dispute Resolution COVID-19 Grant**

**Ratified as recommended**, a request for ratification of a grant application for The Special Education Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) COVID-19 Grant.

**A-12, RATIFY Change Orders for the Projects Listed Below**

**Ratified as recommended**, information on Change Orders for the following projects: Bid 20-20, McLane High School Library Modernization, Change Order 2 presented for ratification: \$15,670; Bid 20-42 Sections A and D, Exterior Painting at Balderas, Hidalgo and Winchell Elementary Schools and Ahwahnee Middle School, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$0; Bid 20-46, Sections A and B, Vinland Elementary School Parking Lot Expansion and Site Access

Improvements, Change Order 2 presented for ratification (Section A): \$16,975; Bid 20-51, Addicott Elementary School Restroom Accessibility Improvements, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$951.

**A-13, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion**

**Ratified as recommended**, a Notice of Completion for the following projects, which has been completed according to plans and specifications: Bid 20-42 Section A and D, Exterior Painting at Balderas, Hidalgo and Winchell Elementary Schools and Ahwahnee Middle School; Bid 20-53 Burroughs, King and Powers-Ginsburg Elementary Schools HVAC Replacement.

**A-14, RATIFY Purchase Orders from September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 – Primary Report**

**Ratified as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from September 01, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Two agenda items are presented to ratify purchase orders. The first item includes the Primary Report with all purchase orders issued during the reported dates with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.

**A-15, RATIFY Purchase Orders from September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 – Supplemental Report**

**Ratified as recommended**, is information on purchase orders issued from September 01, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas read a statement as follows:

“Item A-15 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains a purchase order for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. I am employed by Fresno EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation. I did not participate in making the contracts related to this purchase order; but, because of my employment with Fresno EOC, I have a remote financial interest in the contracts. Therefore, consistent with my prior recusals relating to Fresno EOC, and in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board President Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, Agenda Item A-15 was ratified by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Mill, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

**UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**1. Julie McCoy**

I'm interested in your program and want my child in you're schooling.

**2. Jason Smith**

With only 1 mortality case related to COVID for Fresno County, ages 0-17 and that case having a co-morbidity and 7 cases for ages 18-44 without any co-morbidities, what justification does the Teachers Union and the Board of Education have to keep schools closed after a waiver has been approved and the Education system is not regulated by the CA tier system?

**3. Michael West**

My name is Mikey West and I'm a senior at Edison. I'm advocating regarding the 2nd semester schedule. FUSD is above all a government organization that serves the community which we the students are in. Knowing this, you'll understand my shock when a new schedule is imposed on students who had no input in the matter, despite being the group most affected by the change. The schedule will exaggerate pre-existing flaws that exist within online learning. As a student, I can attest to the fact that the one hour class periods are already pushing the limit of how long we can effectively focus in online class. The 15 minute extension will hinder learning instead of increasing it. Being required to be "in school" until 2pm will further physical complications from distance learning. Personally, sitting and staring at my computer for distance learning has led to a decline in my physical well-being. Lengthening the time will worsen it. You must keep in mind that our time at the computer won't stop at 2pm. It continues for hours as we do homework. You must consider the mental toll of distance learning. I can say on behalf of many students that mental health has declined as a result of it but we understand it is necessary. However, I do not understand why you would further stretch our social-emotional struggles by lengthening the school day and our stress. I am formally requesting a response to this comment and that the schedule change be reversed.

**4. Riley Walton**

My name is Riley Walton and I am a senior at Edison High School. I am writing regarding the new second-semester schedule for Fresno Unified. Firstly, students cannot reasonably be expected to focus for over an hour while the "maximum attention span for an average adult is 20 minutes" (Gutenberg Technology.) If an adult cannot focus for hardly more than a quarter of the newly projected class time, I will leave you to imagine what the nightmare of online learning has been thus far. This has been exemplified in my own lectures too many times to count: silent breakout rooms, no contributions to group projects, and mics remain muted past the 30-minute mark. Another issue is that many students and teachers lack the surroundings at home to sustain a proper learning environment. There have been countless instances in which children, neighbors, and pets have prevented a class

meeting from proceeding smoothly. The 15-minute extension will only exaggerate these issues. Lastly, many students my age have jobs that help support their families or themselves. Online education has allowed many of my peers, including myself, to pick up extra hours at work and secure a more fruitful schedule following the dismissal from class at 12:30 pm. A longer school day will disrupt the work of hundreds of students who rely on that income for necessities during this time of the economic collapse. It is for the reasons mentioned above that I request the schedule change be reversed.

### **5. Emma Pitcher**

My name is Emma Pitcher and I'm a senior at Edison. I'm writing about the new schedule for high schools. The proposed changes would harm me as a student. With online school, I'm finding it hard to focus for even an hour in class. Adding fifteen more minutes makes school more difficult for me and others. These fifteen extra minutes would just be fifteen more minutes where I find it hard to stay focused, not fifteen extra minutes of pure learning or working. I'm receiving a lot of homework this year and the new schedule would reduce the time I have to work on it. Because of the limits of online school, I'm finding it hard to keep up in my classes so I need as much independent time as possible. Losing two hours of my afternoon also reduces how much time I can spend on extracurriculars. I've built my schedule around this semester with school ending at 12:30, and now you expect me to change all of it without being asked. This is wrong. The hours I would lose are time that I've already allocated to extracurriculars or personal things. Expecting me to rework everything without being asked for my opinion was the wrong choice. I know that I'm not alone in feeling this. We have been ignored in this process, and we will not let it happen. I am formally requesting that the schedule change be reversed, and that mine and others complaints get a District response.

## **B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **B-16, HOLD a Public Hearing in the Matter of the Golden Charter Academy Charter Petition**

For the record, Board President Thomas read a statement as follows:

Item B-16 on tonight's agenda is a public hearing in the Matter of Golden Charter Academy's petition. I am a founding member of the Golden Charter Academy and I serve in an unpaid capacity as the Vice-President of Golden Charter Academy's Board of Directors. The CEO and President of Golden Charter Academy is my son-in-law, Robert Golden. Because Golden Charter Academy is a 5013C non-profit corporation I am a non-compensated officer. I do not have any financial interest in Golden Charter Academy or the



petition; however, as a founding member and Vice-President I have a personal interest in this matter. Therefore, consistent with Board Bylaw 9270 and out of the abundance of caution, I am recusing myself to avoid any appearance of impropriety. In addition, because item B-16 is listed in a conference discussion section on the agenda, Board Bylaw 9270 requires that I leave the meeting room until the public hearing and any resulting discussion on this matter is concluded.

For the record, Board Clerk Davis led the meeting during Agenda Item B-16.

For the record, Mr. Robert Golden of Golden Charter Academy had an opportunity to present.

For the record, the Public Hearing in the Matter of the Carter G. Woodson Public School Charter Petition was opened by Board Clerk Davis at 7:17 p.m.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to the presentation provided by the petitioner Golden Charter Academy. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to if the program is enough to dovetail to the California State Standard for curriculum in the grade levels. Thanked Mr. Golden for the opportunity to meet prior to the meeting to discuss questions pertaining to the program. Requested clarity as to recruitment strategy and information on his leadership team. Expressed appreciation for the vision and innovation of Golden Academy. Requested clarity as to enrollment process. Expressed hope that priority of enrollment can go to students in the southwest region. Requested clarity as to Golden Academy's restorative justice program. Expressed interest in the environmental program and requested clarity how Golden Charter Academy's building and facilities will help promote environmental stewardship. Requested clarity as to how the financial impact to the district is calculated.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record twenty-nine submissions of public comment were received for Agenda Item B-16. They are as follows:

### **1. Elizabeth Lynch**

To Whom it May Concern, My name is Elizabeth Lynch. I am writing to address agenda item B-16. Golden Charter Academy is a new and innovative charter school. I'm really looking forward to sending my son next year as he begins his education journey starting kindergarten. As a mother of a black son it is important to me that he is in a safe place that is diverse and strongly representing all races in a positive matter. I know this is something Golden Charter Academy will excel at. With their partnership with the Fresno Zoo I know my son's first educational experiences will be full of lasting positive memories. This will be an excellent foundation to build his

educational future on. Let's continue to take these positive steps forward.  
Best, Elizabeth Lynch

**2. Jamila Wheeler**

Hello, My name is Jamila Wheeler and I am the mother of an incoming 3rd grade boy. This school, to me, was the answer to a prayer that I've been repeating for my son. I wanted to find him a school in which he's stimulated and excited to learn daily. My son is a very hands on learner and h believe this school will stimulate his mind and his creativity in new and exciting ways. He's juiced to be able to work with animals and meet like minded peers and I'm thankful that the curriculum is aiming to compete with Common Core, as I'm not a fan of his current curriculum. Thank you Golden Charter Academy for shaking up the status quo in education!

**3. Joseph Vargas**

I hereby support the Golden Academy , Joseph Vargas

**4. Nathan Perez**

"After darkness, always comes light." Hope and optimism that those words can potentially ring true in 2021, after an unprecedented year are something that parents and children alike are hopeful for. My son is different; he is passionate, loving, hands-on and excels in small-group learning environments. He loves nature. He loves tactile experiences. He is visually stimulated. He wears his heart on his sleeve. He can be a handful. And in ANY school setting, those considerations along with the prospect of entering school at the tail-end of the "Covid-era" is difficult. What Golden Charter Academy is proposing to do with their hands-on approach not only satisfies students' needs, especially for children such as my son, but can serve as a remedy for many children in the Fresno area who are hurting from this recent pandemic. Small class sizes will develop strong bonds amongst students and teachers alike. Zoo experiences serving as an outdoor classroom will bring these children a sense of normalcy. And starting and creating a valued tradition in Central Fresno with vested staff who care for this vision and wish to nurture it, are something of value to FUSD and the Fresno-community as a whole. I am not suggesting GCA's vision is a cure-all for the modern ills facing public education- but I am certain that the school's platform can help ease an already emotionally exacerbating situation, for students such as my son going to structured school for the first time! Nathan Perez, Educator, Fresno, CA

**5. Lavita Jackson**

My name Is Lavita Jackson and I'm sending this email in support of the Golden Charter Academy. I'm a lifelong resident of Fresno California. Born and raised in West Fresno. I attended Franklin elementary, Irwin Jr High and graduated from Edison High school. My children followed suite. Now I

have grandchildren and I don't want them to follow suite. I want more for them, a better education, a world class education. That's what I feel they will get from the Golden Charter Academy. Robert Golden was also born and raised in West Fresno and attended the aforementioned schools. He knows exactly what challenges underprivileged kids face. He knows the limitations that can be placed on our kids due to their environment. He also knows what it takes to overcome those challenges. He broke boundaries by entering the NFL. He's breaking boundaries now by returning to Fresno to open a environmental school. Not just for West Fresno, but for "Fresno " in general. I trust the Golden Charter Academy to have my grandchildren's education at the for front of their mission. I believe this school will be life changing for any child that attends. This school has to go forward for such a time as this. The pandemic has caused schools to shut down and kids are falling behind in their education. I feel The Golden Charter Academy will help bring them up to speed once it opens in August 2021. To not only teach them academically, but they will learn (250-word limit reached).

**6. Tami Hullon**

To whom this may concern, I support Mr. Golden Charity 100%. He is a man who stands by his word, he's kind hearted and love kids. Rob is a person these kids need in there life, someone to look up too, someone who's going to go far beyond his limits to make sure these kids get the education they deserve.

**7. Tracy Naron**

To whom this may concern, I support Mr. Golden Charity 100%. He is a man who stands by his word, he's kind hearted and love kids. Rob is a person these kids need in there life, someone to look up too, someone who's going to go far beyond his limits to make sure these kids get the education they deserve.

**8. Martell Golden – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hi, my name is Martell Golden. I am calling in reference to the Golden Charter Academy. I believe this is a great opportunity for the kids, uhm something that they never experienced before, and I believe this will have a great outcome uh, with the kids learning. I do stand behind this program and I hope you will also. Robert Golden is a great guy uh, he's very known in this community, stand up person, personality is great, uhm a wise man and I believe with his leadership and the people that he has around him uhm we will definitely have a benefit with this, with this, uhm with this world. So, yes, I stand behind Golden Charter Academy and I pray that everyone else will also. God Bless.

**9. Leslie Beninga**

To whom it may concern, I wanted to reach out in support of Rob Golden

and the Golden Charter Academy he is wanting to get approved. I have known Rob and his family for many years even before he went pro in the NFL. There wasn't anything he could not accomplish once he put his mind to it no matter what he got it done. Rob is an inspiration to many on what can be done with a great education, drive, Perseverance but most importantly he came back to his home town to encourage our youth to not only make good decisions about education but to show our youth they can do anything if they put their mind to it. This would absolutely be a great asset to our community #istandwithgoldencharteracademy. Thank you for your time, Leslie Beninga

**10. Lechet Bush**

Hello! I would like to express how much our community needs Golden Charter Academy! We are in need of a outstanding school like this one!

**11. Lechet Golden**

I love everything about this school! Our children are in need of Golden Charter Academy!

**12. Tracy De Los Santos**

Robert Golden giving back to the community. I support Golden Charter Academy.

**13. Nesthan Chatmon**

Good evening, I, Nesthan Chatmon the Youth Leader at King Solomon Baptist Church in Fresno California stand in support with Golden Charter Academy opening here in Fresno. I had the pleasure in see Robert Golden grow as a person from when he was a young boy a King Solomon Church to now the wonderful mighty man of God that he displays on a daily basis. He has always had a heart for the next generation and building up the youth and young adults in the community. I am glad to stand in support with him and others in the opening of Golden Character Academy.

**14. Latoya Price**

I LPG, am a parent of two grade school aged children, I am sending this email in support of the Golden Charter Academy. Myself and my family are looking forward to having the academy in our local neighborhood. We stand behind this project 100% and feel like we have a lot to look forward to, a brighter future and a future of hope for our children and up and coming generation.

**15. Laquita Brazeal**

I'm sending this email in support of GCA. I will also be attending the public hearing on 12/9. Thank you, Laquita Brazeal

16. **Carolyn Frierson**  
I wholeheartedly support the opening of the Golden Charter Academy school. This new institute of learning and teaching would give our underprivileged children the opportunity to experience a new adventure in their educational portfolio. By giving the children a fun and teachable environment in learning, The Golden Charter Academy school will enlighten the children hearts and minds that there are a broad of opportunities that awaits them by pursuing and completing higher education.
17. **Antasia Clark**  
This is such an amazing opportunity for children to be apart of something beneficial! Let's Strive and Achieve!
18. **Neikia Crump**  
Me and my family want to show our support and we are looking forward to see what we can accomplish together!
19. **Symphony Easter**  
Excited for the new learning opportunities ahead...Can't wait for be apart of such a new, exciting and fun learning experience with my daughter🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉
20. **Priscilla Jimenez**  
Hello, When I saw the opportunity that this new school offer I enrolled my 4 year old son because he love animals and learning and to have both at one time is an awesome way to learn for any child and let them experience something so wonderful and different were they can still get a great education.
21. **Cory Alford**  
Proud of what's being created by the Golden Charter Academy. Diversifying the criteria and curriculum for our youth here in the central valley. Exposure is key to the development of our future generations.
22. **Danielle Tucker**  
Hi this is the parent of Donzeill Johnson. Just wanted to keep you in the loop and let you know we are supporting the program 200%. Feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns 5597925315
23. **Ashley Highsmith**  
To the Fresno Unified School District,  
This is a letter of support to for the Golden Charter Academy. Being a Black teacher in the Central Valley, I have come to realize how important it is for students of color that come from different backgrounds to be a part of the education system that understands them. I think that Robert Golden is

providing an amazing opportunity for students in Fresno to get an exceptional education. I am excited to see what he accomplishes on his mission to bring a new type of education to the Central Valley. Thank you, Ashley Highsmith

**24. Latasha Robinson – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hi, my name is Latasha Robinson my son’s name is Ricardo Jenkins and I just wanted to say that we support, uhm Golden Charter Academy. Thank you, bye.

**25. Carla Lane-Simmons**

I’m very pleased to write this support letter on behalf of Mr. Robert Golden. Mr. Golden is currently a leader in the community and has volunteered since he was a child to benefit the community. I’ve known Mr. Golden for at least 10 years and throughout those years I’ve observed him grow into an accomplished young man throughout our acquaintances in and beyond church. Mr. Golden exhibits superior interpersonal skills and has proven to be a well-known community activist. He demonstrates excellent social skills as well as diversity. He’s known to work well in both group and independent activities especially during his career in football. He’s very well respected by his, peers, community, and family. I support Mr. Robert Golden for the Golden Charter Academy which will inspire powerful young minds. I believe he will be successful in working with the children to empower the community with excellent goals for our children of the future. Carla Lane- Simmons, Mental Health Assistant, (559) 400-5573

**26. Patricia Qualls**

Hi FUSD School Board, Hello, I am so glad we have something like this in our city! I completely support all the work GCA is doing and plans to do in making sure our kids have a bright future.

**27. Dorothy Logan**

So Proud of this young Man, not only did he make it, but he is reaching back to his Community to help and show other kids, that it is possible, that it does not matter where you come from All Dreams are possible with God and determination. Thank you young Man. 🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉

**28. Oliver Baines**

Hello, my name is Oliver Baines, I am the President and CEO of Central Valley Newmarket Tax Fund. I am calling to register my support for the Golden Charter Academy’s Charter Petition. Uh, I am excited to call and make this recommendation of support. I think the Golden Charter Academy and their curriculum is extremely unique for not just the valley but for the state and it would be wise for the Board of Trustees to accept this charter petition and allow the school to open. Thank you for taking my comment.

**29. Tonieka Davis**

I See The Golden Charter Academy Being A Plus/Change For The Children In Our Town, Something That's Well Needed.  
~Tonieka

For the record, the Public Hearing in the Matter of the Golden Charter Academy Charter Petition was closed by Board Clerk Davis at 7:54 p.m.

**B-17, DISCUSS and DECIDE in the Matter of Changing the Fresno High Mascot**

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-17. A summary is as follows: Expressed appreciation for sentiments to retire the mascot. Shared reminder the Board passed an anti-racist resolution.

For the record, Board Member Islas made a motion to retire the Fresno High mascot as well as any other images of mascots of Native American people in use within the district. The retirement should be immediate but with the allowance of a process to identify a new mascot and the process should center around students in identifying and designing a new warrior logo. The use of the new logo should commence no later than the beginning of the following year.

For the record, Board Member Islas made a second motion to invest in the creation and development of a special project to address and repair the harm that has been imposed to the Native students and families. Board Member Islas motioned to expediate the creation of ethnic studies for Native students and a language lab specifically for indigenous people of Fresno, the Yokut.

For the record, Chief of Staff Chavez asked to confirm with Legal Counsel Marybeth de Goede regarding the second motion by Trustee Islas; specifically, because the second motion does not address an item on the agenda, is the second motion allowed by Brown Act requirements.

For the record, Legal Counsel Marybeth de Goede advised the second motion could not be addressed as it is not on the agenda. For the Board to address the second motion, the item will need to be placed on a future agenda.

For the record, Board Member Islas amended her second motion to include the request for the Board to agendize a discussion regarding how the district will better serve its Native students.

For the record, Board Members continued with their comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-17. A summary is as follows: Expressed honor of being the School Board Representative for The Fresno High. Commented the agenda item is not to change the mascot, but to change the image of the mascot.

Expressed concern the petition targeted only Fresno High as there are other schools within the district with similar images. Requested the Board to consider looking into other sites with similar images and how to address concerns pertaining to mascots. Shared some history pertaining to the Fresno High image and pointed out there was never any intent to be disrespectful. Commented that times and opinions change and from comments received most would like the image to change but not the Warrior name. Thanked Native Americans for Change for meeting to discuss topic. Requested clarification to second motion by Member Islas. Requested for people to dial back the rhetoric and incendiary name calling. Commented, would like to see the students come up with an image of which we can all be proud. Provided the definition of the word mascot. Commented on emails received regarding keeping the mascot and read two emails in support of keeping the mascot. Shared most emails received were in favor of changing the image and keeping the Warrior name. Commented would like to honor decision put in place by students 130 years ago. Expressed appreciation for those that reached out on this topic. Commented the Board in the past four years has taken situations like this and used them as an opportunity to be proactive and self-reflective and to do better on behalf of the students of the district, shared a few examples of those situations. Commented the district needs a comprehensive review of naming protocols developed with input from students, alumni, and the community.

For the record, at this time, Board Member Jonasson Rosas offered to second Member Islas' motion, if Member Islas was amenable, to including the amendment of having a process led by the students, community, and faculty to review and create policy and guidelines for future naming protocols.

For the record, Board Member Islas expressed appreciation of Board Member Jonasson Rosas' amendment but did not want to postpone the agenda item on tonight's agenda.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity from Legal Counsel, Marybeth de Goede regarding directing staff to agendize a process to identify a comprehensive naming policy. Legal Counsel de Goede provided clarity to limit the first motion to Fresno High as on the agenda, then to address the second motion of placement of Native American studies on a future agenda, and then address the request to direct staff to begin work of an overall review of a systemic policy change.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record 137 submissions of public comment were received for Agenda Item B-17. They are as follows:



1. **Mi'Shaye Venerable**

My name is Mi'Shaye (Mee-shay) and I am emailing to demand a change in Fresno high school's mascot immediately. This is so embarrassing and extremely inappropriate. Did anybody question the damages done with this?? Or are you just racist? While you are at it, I hope you are doing a land acknowledgement because guess what, y'all on stolen land. Miss me with the "pledge of allegiance", because this is NOT justice for all. But if you think it is, change the mascot. PERIOD. Disrespectfully, MiShaye Venerable

2. **Anthony Lopez,**

Dear Fresno Unified School District Board Members,  
Throughout this country's history there has always been moments that has gauged how far we have progressed as a society. Within these moments, have emerged citizens of all ages, races, genders, creeds, and nationalities who have stood their ground, against all odds, in hopes for a better tomorrow. Today we find ourselves in one of these moments, another measurement of our progress. Once again, across the nation, we hear the people's voice calling for the removal of racist monuments, flags, and symbols from our land. For the Native community here in the Central Valley, our voice has been calling for the removal of the Fresno High Native mascot image. A study shared by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) concluded, "Native American Students may experience a worsening of self-concept and an increase in psychological distress when viewing even neutral images of Native American nicknames/logos" (Friedman 2013). The NCAI have also shared that on average less than fifty percent of Native American high school students graduate each year. With such psychological harm being done toward Native American students, it is no surprise that it contributes to the effects of their education. However, by working together, interdependently, we can create solutions to this issue so that all members of the student body can feel valued and have a sense of belonging. We have an important opportunity in front of us to continue the legacy that our ancestors have passed on and to continue to **(250-word limit reached)**.

3. **Tina Romero**

I remember hearing people use the term "Indian giver" when I was a kid and I remember asking just what that meant because it just sounded wrong. Everyone has a meter in their chest that\*knows\* right from wrong. I was met with, "It's just a saying " But these words are mantras that take on their own lives and help to justify the taking of lives of indigenous human beings. Ironically, white squatters were the true savages who gave things only to take them back.....like their promises of protection and treaties. Instead, they took scalps, sodomized indigenous women with bayonets, passed out diseased blankets and made bridal reins for their horses with the skins of the generous natives who fed them when they were starving. All in the name of God for the

purpose of landholding. When someone upholds a mascot, they are upholding white supremacy. Period. It is not "just a saying", "just a mascot" nor "a thing of the past". When these images and words are brought forth and spoken, they bring great pain to indigenous people and bring into light the hate of the offender. It's never too late to change our ways and I hope other white people will join me to acknowledge a truthful history and hold space for indigenous people in a respectful way of their own consent. Dump that mascot. Hate will not win.

**4. Nate Wood**

Thank you for doing the right thing on December 9th and voting to change the Warriors mascot. It will be great to see the school district on the right side of history.

**5. Jacquelyn Fargano – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Yes, Hi, my name is Jacquelyn Fargano and I'm calling in regards to the, uhm, Fresno High mascot and I wanted to leave my message which has to do with, uhm, the fact that I am a Fresno Unified School District instructor. I am also a Fresno City College professor and National University professor. Uhm, I have been with Fresno Unified for twenty-nine years and I instructed at Fresno High School for a couple of years during that period. It's a beautiful campus, it's a wonderful community, and a lovely school in a great district and so it's a shame that we would be, uhm, continuing to perpetuate such a stereotype, uh, such a, uhm, piece of disrespect. Uhm, I think that people get stuck on certain things and, uh, they get dug-in, uhm, and its uh a time for change and change can feel painful for some people, but it also is, uhm, righting some wrongs, and this is wrong. It's wrong to have a warrior as a mascot. A warrior as what has been explained is a very sacred position, uh, person and you wouldn't put, I don't believe Jesus as a mascot, I guess you could, but it would be something I think some people would have feelings about. Particularly, in terms of uhm, the importance of what we are looking at. So, uhm, I'm asking and I'm recommending that the mascot be changed. We are no longer in that place; it is okay to change and **(250-word limit reached)**.

**6. Jill Heckroth Baisch**

I'm writing to implore you to change the mascot logo. Plain and simple, this is not a good image to have. It promotes racism in the form of homogenizing the countless indigenous cultures found throughout this continent. It presents an outdated stereotypic head dress wearing, big nosed, war painted racist caricature, and as an institution of learning, you should be deeply embarrassed and ashamed of such backwards representations. This is not what we want the youth to internalize. Please, listen to the indigenous voices calling this out as disrespectful and racist. Change the logo now!

**7. Emma Taylor**

Dear Fresno Unified,

The Fresno High mascot is deeply offensive to me, both as a Japanese American and as Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with extensive experience working with BIPOC. Please vote to change the image tomorrow! Thank you, Emma Taylor, M.S., LMFT

**8. Isabella Garcia**

The mascot needs to change. For the sake of me, and other native's mental health. It's sick that while people were/are exploiting Native culture for entertainment purposes they don't learn about Natives tragic past, disrespect native culture and are extremely racist. STUDENTS are racist, current students, and alumni. Having this mascot enables them to continue to be racist towards natives. Do the right thing, let them learn, help Natives heal. CHANGE THE MASCOT. Society continues to ignore Native pain and feelings, don't join the party here. Listen to us, hear our pain, ignore the ignorance from others, help us heal. Help us heal. Do the right thing.

**9. Sirley Carballo**

Hello, I'm writing to show support for my Native neighbors from around the Valley in voting for YES to remove the Fresno High Mascot imagery. The decision should be made from a place of humility, and left only up to the people whom it purports to represent, our Native brothers and sisters. Their voices should be heard. As a resident of the district in which Fresno High resides, I'm embarrassed to think that our leaders and administrators would lack the empathy to listen and learn when they have caused harm. Please vote YES to remove the Native imagery. Thank you.-- Sirley Carballo

**10. Katie Oros**

Fresno High School Board Members, I'm writing to show support for your efforts to update the Fresno High School mascot image. Logos change over time naturally anyway as style and art evolve with the humans who make them. I agree that it's time to make a change to this image which will not only give a fresh look and feel to the pride of the school, but also stand in solidarity with what is good, right, and kind toward the indigenous folks who have had to endure so very much injustice and unthinkable hardship for so long already. It's a small change, but it will send an invaluable positive message for years to come. Holding a contest for young local artists to contribute new logo/mascot ideas for the future of the Fresno High and its legacy might also be a wonderful way to engage the community and promote this positive change. Thank you for caring enough to make this happen. Your decision will affect more people than you know, and I'm personally excited to see the unveiling when a new mascot image is chosen. Go Warriors!--Katie O.

**11. Ruby Rodriguez**

Dear Fresno Unified Board,

On behalf of Latino Outdoors and as a Fresno High alumna, I am urging you to change the mascot and imagery used for Fresno High. Native mascots reduce complex, multifaceted identities and cultures to costumes and playthings. The continued use of Native mascots perpetuates the harm and trauma that Indigenous peoples have endured for too long. As community leaders and decision-makers, thousands of people, including members of the Yokuts tribe, are requesting that you change an oppressive mascot as the nation takes the biggest stand of our lifetime for social and racial justice. The labor of getting out of our comfort zone and working together to cross new thresholds towards anti-oppression is up to all of us. Individually and collectively, we need to deepen our understanding of the complex, multi-faceted Indigenous identity. Removing symbols of disrespect is a necessary part of this work. Please do the right thing and vote YES.

**12. Laura Gromis**

2020 has been a year of realization for many that we have been blind to systematic racism and injustices that have been existing since the beginning of this country. Many traumatized by the past are only now beginning to feel comfortable speaking up. The Fresno High Mascot is insulting to many, and should be changed to respect the indigenous representatives in our community as first step towards understanding the past and creating a different future. Kind regards, Laura Gromis

**13. Briana Zweifler**

Please change the Fresno High mascot! Local Native people have said that the mascot is disrespectful and harmful to them. This alone should be reason enough. The Golden State Warriors changed their image and kept the Warriors name, and they have continued to be a well-loved and successful team. Images that reduce human beings to a mascot have no place in Fresno. PLEASE support the petition to CHANGE THE FRESNO HIGH MASCOT!

**14. Laura**

Keep the Warrior name, change the image!!! The mascot is offensive because it perpetuates a stereotype that is harmful. Changing the mascot is a great opportunity to really show the respect and honor you claim to have for the people. CHANGE THE MASCOT

**15. Andrea Massi**

To whom it may concern, I am writing to urge you to please get rid of the offensive mascot for Fresno High. It's long overdo and wouldn't require a name change, just a different mascot. Natives are not mascots and it would say a lot to make that point by removing the mascot. Thank you for you time in reading this email and I hope that my young indigenous sons will not grow up in a world where the most common representation they see is in the form of inappropriate school mascots. Andrea Massi

**16. Presley Fletcher**

Hello,

My name is Presley Fletcher and I live in Fresno and attend Fresno State. I am emailing to submit a public comment about removing the Fresno High Mascot image. The image is racist and dehumanizes Native Americans. Keeping the 'warriors' name isn't the problem, the image of a Native American in head dress as the mascot is. If Fresno Unified truly pledges to create a diverse and racially understanding development in their education system it needs to begin with removal of racist mascots. Sincerely, Fresno Civilian Presley Fletcher

**17. Yessica Guzman**

Change the native image keep the warriors name. It is 2020 it is time. Please change the image. Look at the NFL, the Washington team did it, so can we.

**18. Liz Miles**

To whom it may concern; I am a proud alumna of Fresno High, class of '73. My teachers were awesome (especially Mr Amend whose influence of the appreciation of literature, history, civic duty, art and culture, I have enjoyed throughout my life). My time at Fresno High prepared me well for college (UC Berkeley) and for all the pursuits in my life. I am also in the FHS Hall of Fame in recognition of my participation in the 1984 Olympics (Rowing). Fresno High is about the faculty, the students; it's about the lessons and relationships that inform and enrich our lives for years to come. It's about education and community. Fresno High is NOT about an anachronistic and painful misappropriation of an outdated, cultural trope. It's just time for the "warrior" to go. I appreciate that the School Board is considering this issue. Elizabeth Miles, OLY, FHS Class of '73

**19. William O. Miles**

As a 1966 graduate of Fresno High School and one who has been active in the concern for Native American rights for many years, I support without reservation the discontinuation of Indian imagery by the Fresno Unified School District for any and all non-native functions, student identifications and associations. Perpetuation of the "[Indian] Warrior" as an emblem, symbol or 'mascot' of FHS is unnecessary, unjustified and unkind. As members of the Fresno Unified School District and all those with responsibility for Human Relations in business and civic workplaces well know, 'harassment' is a form of misconduct that is judged, not by its intentions, but by its effects. The authentic traditions of indigenous peoples are superior in social value to artificial and antiquated "traditions" contrived by others. By all logic and decency, FSUD is obliged to prefer the acute sensitivities of Natives peoples to the sensibilities of non-native dominant social actors, however benign. If positive alternatives are sought, I might suggest the Owl (already in limited

use at the school), a generic (non-native) "Warrior", or, more progressively, a modern (non-native) "Rainbow Warrior". Further, I would put the matter squarely before the Fresno High School student body for their consideration and approval. William O. Miles, Baltimore, MD

**20. Melissa Lovett-Adair**

Dear School Board member,

The School Board has an obligation to protect the youth in their charge. No child should be subjected to insult and trauma by the institutions which the law requires them to attend. The warriors mascot at Fresno High is demeaning, insulting and traumatizing to the Native students who attend your schools. The students have clearly articulated the reasons this image is offensive and the effect of this derogatory image on their sense of belonging in school. They have suggested a reasonable alternative- keep the name and replace the negative Native image. Negative stereotypes against one ethnic group impact all of us. Would you tolerate a negative derogatory image as your school mascot of someone who is Jewish, Latinx, or Black? Of course not. Stereotypes of Native Americans, regardless of intent, perpetuate racism and must not be tolerated any longer. As a School board member I am sure you have the best interests of all the students in your district in your minds and will do the right thing. Remove the racist mascot from Fresno High. Sincerely, Melissa Lovett-Adair

**21. Victor Aparicio**

Hello,

My name is Victor and I attended Fresno High from 2006 to 2010. When I became aware of the movement to remove native american imagery from the school, I took the time to process why it was an issue. I read the posts about its history and how uncomfortable it makes native youth feel. I couldn't help it but to think about my time in Fresno High, while I had no significant history or imagery that made me feel like a lesser student or citizen. There's already an inherent feeling that all students have when entering high school to begin with. There is anxiety that my friends and I experienced wondering whether or not we were going to like our time in high school, if we were going to make new friends, or that we were smart enough to be where we were. Those are feelings we project on to ourselves and our experience in high school was supposed to make us more confident before moving on to college and adulthood. Therefore, I cannot imagine having this outside presence constantly hovering over you, projecting even more anxiety on top of whatever students are already going through. To feel like a lesser person just by stepping into campus and looking up at the school they're supposed to be happy to be attending. The place where they were supposed to find themselves and their strengths is practically mocking them and opening them up for harassment and bullying from insensitive classmates. There **(250-word limit reached)**.

**22. Jennifer Rojas**

Hello School Board Members,

My name is Jennifer Rojas and I live in the 93702 zip code. I am writing to urge you to change native image from the Fresno High school mascot. Indigenous people should be respected and honored not used as a costume on game nights. This can be the first step into removing all native mascots in the future. School spirit does not have to look like this. Jennifer Rojas, 93702

**23. Jolene Edwards**

- a reasonable alternative- keep the name and replace the negative Native image
- Negative stereotypes against one ethnic group impact all of us

**24. Henry Andrade**

Fresno Family,

Eventually ALL sports teams that bare the name Redskins, Braves, Indians, Warriors will either change the names or the depictions of Indigenous peoples. Lets do the right thing and change the logo/name. Lets not be remembered as the last to voluntarily change the name and show solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Thank You, Henry Andrade (Wixaritari/Huichol Nation)

**25. Shane Spears - (Voice Message Transcribed)**

My name is Shane Spiers. I am a Fresno High graduate, class of 1996. I think you should change the mascot. I think it is an insensitive caricature. I don't consider that to be part of the culture that is acceptable. I think you should change it to something else and I hope you do.

**26. Anastacia Wiggins**

Please change the fresno high mascot!! While there is no issue with using the warriors name, there is with refusing to part with an image that stereotypes and disrespects that many diverse native american tribes across the United States and their culture. Natives, like those belonging to the Yokut tribe here in Fresno, do not deserve to be reduced to a caricature. Please do your part in ending the dehumanization of native peoples.

**27. Julyssa Ortega Cisneros**

The mascot is offensive to all indigenous people. I am unsure why you have kept it this long. The demands are reasonable; change the mascot, keep the name. It is not difficult. You are on stolen Yokuts land. The least you can do is honor their demands, and get rid of the mascot. I urge you to get rid of it now.

**28. Dan Waterhouse**

Dear Board Members-it is time to relegate the warrior emblem to the scrap

heap of history. Dan Waterhouse, FHS Class of 1972

**29. JoAnn Woodward**

The 132-year history of Fresno High School has seen many hundreds of thousands of students call FHS their Alma Mater. Many of those students are still present today and would be ashamed of what a small minority of very loud students and public individuals are trying to say about a symbol that has meant so much to Fresno High. The Warrior symbol used at FHS is not negative to the Native American Indian as it represents STRENGTH, ENDOURANCE, HONOR and DIGNITY as can be easily observed in the symbol. There were Native American group concerns presented at the town hall about the present situation. I hope you take the time to recall those comments and weigh them with as much care as you do those who have spoken in a negative light. If you do not recall, the presentation was given by Cecelia Funk and addressed concerns from Native American Studies Program at FHS, International Baccalaureate led Local Native American survey and the FHS Alumni funded Native American Scholarship. Please be fair with the assessments that face you in a time when the louder the group and the more intense the outcry often does not agree with the silent majority with fairness in mind. JoAnn Woodward, Proud to be a Warrior, Class of 1958

**30. Robert E. Keldgord**

Don't understand why change is being considered. Always thought "warrior" was a positive title. Robert e.keldgord, '48

**31. Darin Ciotti**

Hi I am a graduate of the class 1985. I am a WARRIOR and my family is a warrior! My grand parents and my mother all graduated from Fresno High School WARRIORS. I am a proud member of the the alliums and give money to the schools scholarship fund. I do this based on being a Warrior, enough of the political bias, and remember the school and the mascot had been a part of the Fresno environment for more than 100 years, this is a proud systembel, not defining because one person has a gripe. Really what about all of the students and alumni that have graduated from Fresno high school and love the warriors, what about them and are you willing to address there needs. Please stop and think about what you are doing and who cares about what you are voting on, a warrior is a proud person and not a racial issue. Please consider what and why you are discussing this issue. Thank you, Darin Ciotti.

**32. Valley Natives for Change**

Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees: you've been listed as a decision maker. Valley Natives for Change ! started a petition on Change.org and listed you as a decision maker. Learn more about Valley Natives for Change !'s petition and how you can respond. Valley Natives for Change ! is petitioning Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees Change Fresno



High School's Mascot Image! This is Yokuts Land and we are Valley Natives for CHANGE!

**33. Kristen Lewis Butler**

As an Alumni of the class of 1965, I want to ask the board to leave the mascot as it is. Though I'm not Native American, I was and am still proud to be a Warrior.. I view the symbolic Indian as a proud figure, full of wisdom, integrity, and spirit...and was proud to be recognized as a Warrior...and still am.. How can that be seen as demeaning to a Native American. They are a proud people & we wish to emulate them..So I ask that you keep our mascot intact.  
Kristen Lewis Butler

**34. Larry Preston**

I am a 1961 graduate of FHS ... and therefore a "Warrior"! It makes no sense to me to change our Warrior label/identity, but it's totally appropriate to consider more acceptable "symbols" of Warriors. For example, my dad served in the second world war and my son spent 20 years in the US Navy ... they were both "American Warriors"! Be Creative! Take care ..Larry Preston, Class of 1961.

**35. Bruce Kaye – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

I'm calling about the mascot issue, and uh yes, so you can call me back at this number, 707-599- 639. Thank you.

**36. Margaret Madden – Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hi, my name is Margaret Madden and I am a teacher from Northern California and I found out that your mascot is the Warriors and I think that it affects children's' self-esteem to have a mascot that is a person and the high school I went to is changing their name. I went to Francis Drake High and they are changing it because he was a slave trader. So, if my high school can change their whole name, I think you guys can handle changing a mascot so children can have better self-esteem. Alright, have a good day.

**37. Paul Areyan**

Good afternoon. My name is Paul Areyan. I am a husband, a father, a veteran, a nursing student, and indigenous. You'll get plenty of arguments to change the mascot, some better than the ones I want to highlight. I just wanted to offer some food for thought. A reason people insist on keeping "indians" as mascots is that it honors indigenous people. Have you noticed what other mascots are? Not people, they are animals. There are not mascots that "honor" European Americans or African Americans or Mexican Americans etc. Why is it that people just want to "honor" indigenous people? I would argue that it is not honor that enables the use of indigenous people as mascots. It is the societal view that we are not humans. I believe keeping indigenous people as mascots perpetuates this degrading ideology. I would like to offer

something else to chew on. Do you believe women have pain while giving birth? Have you yourself given birth? Do you believe men that get hit in the testicles have pain? Have you ever experienced it yourself? I believe these two things are painful despite only having experienced one. That is because I trust the words of the people going through this pain. Additionally, there are many people that reiterate these events as painful. This provides further evidence. Please believe the people going through the pain. Despite how you may think things should be, if you're not part of the group subject to the pain then just **(250 word-limit reached)**.

**38. Kassidy Friend**

Hello, I am writing to encourage Fresno Unified to change the disrespectful image of the racist Native American stereotype of the Fresno High mascot. The Native community of Fresno feels disrespected by this image, and to change the image is the least we can do in recognition of the centuries of violence that American people have inflicted on Native communities since settlers first arrived on this land. Please move forward with changing this image to anything else that does not disrespect our community members. It is embarrassing and harmful to all of us to see this image regularly, and it is a small and accessible step to make this simple change. Thank you very much for your time, I hope you make the empathetic and just decision on this issue. With care, Kassidy Friend

**39. Lauren Beal**

My name is Lauren Beal and I am a current Social Science and African American Studies teacher at Edison High School. I am writing to the school board today to ask Fresno Unified to change the mascot at Fresno High School. The use of Native mascots is a virulent racist practice and should be banned. Fresno Unified Board of Trustees bravely and courageously adopted Ethnic Studies and an anti racist resolution that speaks directly to true equality in this district. The continued use of Native imagery as a mascot stands in direct opposition of these resolutions. Native community members are facing violent terrorist threats in 2020 because of inaction to realize it's time to change. Research has shown the intolerance and harm promoted by these "Indian" sports mascots, logos, or symbols, have very real and negative consequences for Native people. I believe Fresno Unified should be a safe place for all students. I want to work proudly for a district that honors Native culture and heritage and not for one who protects and advocates to keep racist iconography. I am deeply disturbed that this even requires a vote on the humanity of fellow human beings. This is an example of how intrinsic and invisible racist institutions can be. If Fresno Unified is going to proclaim anti-racism, they must own this. I stand in solidarity with the Yokut people and Valley Natives for Change. It's time for Fresno Unified Native Mascots and imagery to make their exit from our public schools!

**40. Dionisia Gonzalez**

Hi! I am a long -time resident of Fresno and support the indigenous community in asking the board to please vote on changing the mascot of FHS and keeping the name. I also believe it is important that the next generation see everyone with different cultures as people and not mascots. Thank you!

**41. Thaddeus Miller**

I'm writing today in support of the movement to change the Fresno High School mascot. I am a product of FUSD — Edison High class of 1998. I'm a white guy who supports the Native people who are disrespected daily by a mascot that is embarrassingly still around. The advocates behind the change have shown it is more than a matter of opinion, and that an overwhelming majority of Native youth and Native American groups support changing all mascots that depict Native people. They have also provided a simple path to change through the example of the Golden State Warriors, who kept the name but removed its offensive depictions of people decades ago. The mascot as it stands is racist. -Thaddeus Miller

**42. Derek Dill**

Good evening, I wanted to state that I am in support of changing the Fresno High School mascot. As opposed to supporting my opinion in argument, I ask you to consider the following questions genuinely before ultimately reaching your decision: Why are the opinions of Native Americans regarding how they are depicted prioritized over other opinions on this issue? Shouldn't they govern how they are represented? If they are being honored by this image, why is this not reinforced by the curriculum of the school? (clubs, history, guest speakers, classes). Could you see the Native American mascot lending to the opportunity of inaccurate ideas about their culture? (people parading in their idea of Native attire, slurs from opposing teams). Could this fictional example lead to a lack of awareness as to the diversity and variety of cultural practices of Native Americans? (promote tropes/stereotypes). So much is lost on the discussion surrounding whether or not the imagery is offensive-anyone and everyone can and will have an opinion on that. The decision you are making before you is whether Native Americans should determine their future as to whether or not they should be a mascot. An increasing majority of Native Americans have vocalized that they don't. What scholastic second opinion do you need? There are plenty of examples/imagery the school could draw from locally while retaining the name. Thank you for your time.

**43. Jesse Bustamante**

Muna hoo , Woponuch (Bear Clan),is the name of my people. We come from the Sequoia State park region, Ko onekwe is the name of our clans' homeland as it is my ancestors before me and kids. I grew up in the central valley, born and raised within Fresno City- I attended Fresno High School, as was one of my kids who recently graduated from Fresno High School. My youngest child

attends F.U.S.D. he attends online school as directed by the school district. I asked Fresno High School if my son Kain Bustamante can have his cap beaded by his uncle, out of respect to him and his cultural preservation of passing cultural artwork to the future generations's of the Native American Community. I was told that having his cap beaded will offend people, even though he knows his identity, he knows his people and his connection to the land. The Native American Freedom of Religion Act was passed 1978, my child as many "Indigenous" children was told he could not express his Identity, the detrimental effects that has on Indigenous kids' mental health can be devastating and allows our kids to turn to gangs or early substance abuse. These are only two of the least detrimental effects of what happens when Indigenous kids cannot "Be". Suicide is something no parent wants to feel due to the denial of these human rights we have as human beings. Thank you.

**44. Samina Najmi**

Fresno Unified has an obligation to educate itself about the erasure and misrepresentations of the host peoples of these lands. This mascot is inaccurate, ahistorical, and demeaning to the Yokuts community, on whose lands we build our lives. Bothering to change it is the least we can do. And let's not stop at Fresno High School. My kid had to endure a similar caricature on her P.E. uniform at Tenaya Middle School.

**45. James Merzon**

Dear FUSD, I graduated from FHS in the class of 1960. I lettered in sports and was always proud to be an Iroquois. Political correctness is inexcusably out of control in the minds of some people who want to reduce everything into blandness. Don't become the next victim of PC. There is nothing derogatory or demeaning about a reference to the first inhabitants on America. Thinking that there is, is itself derogatory. Put on your big boy clothes and leave things alone.

**46. Francesca Enzler**

Hello, I am writing in support of changing the Fresno High mascot so that it no longer uses a Native person as a mascot. Using an image of a Native person as a mascot is not respectful of the humanity and history of our community members who are Native American. Changing the mascot will have positive benefits. Native students will feel more welcome and will be better able to focus on their studies. Additionally, you could have a contest for students to create the new design! I imagine this would help students to feel a sense of agency and belonging at school :) I stand in solidarity with our Native community members and strongly urge to change the mascot. Thank you for your time, Francesca Enzler

**47. Kenn Stollery-Jones**

To the FUSD Leadership Team, I am writing to you as a secondary school teacher of 20 years. While I am not in your District, or even your country, I

have become aware of the campaign to change the Fresno High School mascot and agree with it wholeheartedly. My home country of Australia is a nation that struggles with many of the same issues as the United States, having inherited a society based on colonialism and the dark past and present-day social problems that go along with it. Racist imagery depicting our First Nations people in stereotypical and at times derogatory manners occasionally appears in the conservative print press in Australia, but it is always roundly condemned, with apologies and retractions following, and we absolutely do not enshrine such imagery in our educational or government institutions. Having made a Resolution “declaring Fresno Unified School District to be an anti-racist institution”, and being beholden to California Bill AB-30 Article 3.5 ‘The California Racial Mascots Act’, you have an existing obligation and framework to change the Fresno High School mascot. Its generic representation of a Native American man is reductive, disrespectful and damaging. It is demeaning to use a culture as a mascot, made even worse through inaccuracies in the stereotypical depiction of that culture. As an educator, my main concern is for the impact this has on your students of First Nations heritage. Please consider their welfare and sense of self as you consider this matter. Regards, Kenn Stollery-Jones, Victoria, Australia

**48. Rachel Youdelman**

As a Fresno High alumna (class of 1969), I strongly urge the FUSD to vote for removal of the current FHS mascot, a caricature of an indigenous man, because it is plainly racist, and local native people— whom it purportedly represents—are asking that it be changed. Why now? Nationally, native activists and their allies have sought to remove similar racist mascot images and/or names from professional, college, and high-school sports teams, in some cases for decades. Mascots such as "Braves," "Warriors," "Chiefs," and the like persist at the high-school level, per the Mascot DataBase (<https://www.mascotdb.com/>), despite progress otherwise made elsewhere. It is imperative to recognize the pain and damage engendered by the racism on this ostensibly benign level and act on that recognition by honoring the wishes of those most affected by it. Indeed, some claim that the mascot image "honors" local native people. Yet local native history is not so much as taught in the curriculum. Other thoughtless people mourn the loss of "tradition"; racism may be a tradition, but it is clearly not one that should be perpetuated by Fresno Unified. Please show leadership and vote to remove and replace this racist image. Rachel Youdelman, FHS class of 1969 Clovis CA 93612

**49. Jess Gibbs**

Misrepresenting a culture is offensive and misleading to the youth that we should be teaching to be proper caring adults. Please change the Fresno high mascot to show understanding and tolerance for a misunderstood and very important culture. Show young adults how to be understanding adults. Disrespect of a culture will continually create disrespectful people and clearly

already has. Be the respectful change we as a country and a misrepresented culture deserves.

**50. Michael Green**

Board members: I'm writing in support of the proposal to change the Fresno High School mascot. I'm a Fresno High graduate (class of 1977) and also a graduate of Fresno State University. It is certainly proper to note that the Warriors mascot name and logo were viewed at all times during my high school days as being deserving of full respect and honor. No disrespect to Native Americans was ever knowingly expressed by myself or my fellow students. However, times change, and we are bound to change with them. The pertinent question facing the board tonight is whether Native Americans may reasonably take offense by the continued use of the FHS mascot, which at best represents a cowboys-and-Indians caricature quite disconnected from California's historical reality. The views of FHS students, staff and alum are useful here but not determinative. It is not enough for people to say we mean no disrespect. Our actions must show it also. Nor is it enough to focus on the proud history of Fresno High as a school, for a school cannot retain its honor knowing its mascot dishonors others. Thus, the only proper action is to change the mascot, just as the Washington Football Team is doing. This is not an application of political correctness. It's a cultural course correction that is long overdue. Please vote to change the FHS mascot and logo.

**51. Rachel Ramirez**

My name is Rachel Ramirez, I'm Wukchumni-Yokut and have grown up and currently reside in Fresno. As a Native person who also works with Native youth, I support the name the mascot change for Fresno High School. I'm constantly appalled, but not shocked, that there is an entire people as a mascot. Having a Native person as a school mascot is completely disrespectful to the multitude of tribes from this area. By having this person as a mascot, you are sending the message that Native people are fictional, that they currently do not exist, and that we can be used for whatever the majority group says we should be. This is enough! The Native community is speaking out and need to be acknowledged. I believe Fresno High School has an opportunity to work with the student body, and a diverse ethnic groups, to choose a new mascot that actually represents the core values of the school. I also hope that Fresno Unified can reach out to local Native groups and organizations to better represent Native students.

**52. Yasmin Rosales**

Hello , I graduated from Fresno High in 2019 and I have always been uncomfortable with the mascot at Fresno High I've spoke about it to staff members but I feel like the situation was always pushed off because if they aren't Native American like I am then they don't understand the problem. I've seen the band put paint on their faces and I thought it was so wrong. They

don't have any classes or clubs for Native American history we learned about everything else but I would say to staff how come we don't learn about what Native Americans went through and again it was pushed off. I had one teacher who was interested and let me gather my information together and I got to teach my class about my culture but why wasn't it already a topic for us to learn ? It made me feel like I wasn't important and my culture isn't important but they have a Native mascot ? It doesn't make sense it's not right it should be changed!

**53. Amanda Lujan**

The use of Native imagery as part of the Fresno High mascot is deeply offensive and disrespectful. I stand with our Native community in the Valley and across the country in urging Fresno High to change the image of the Warrior to one that does not exploit the image of the Native population. Tradition is not more important than the voices of the actual living people who are hurt by this imagery.

**54. Ellery Alkotob**

Hello, It's critical that the mascot of Fresno High be changed. Native Americans are people, not a high school's mascot. The Yokuts, like all peoples, deserve respect and decency, both of which are hindered by Fresno High's mascot. This is such a simple starting point to make Fresno a more unified city and school system.

**55. Jessica Bonnar**

Hello, My name is Jessica Bonnar, and I grew up in Visalia, CA. I am now a research associate in Boston. I am sending an email in support of changing the Fresno High School mascot. Indigenous people should not be mascots for any organization. When the mascot is changed, I also firmly believe that the school district should establish clear curriculum to inform students as to why this practice is unacceptable. If it is unclear why this practice is grossly racist, please speak to your local tribe (The Yokut People) who have already disseminated clear information on the ethical implications of this practice online. This issue is starting to gain national attention - your actions will be viewed far outside of your local community. Please do the just thing.

**56. Margo Angell**

Honorable Board Members, We name our teams and mascots in order to both exalt ideals we value, and to imbue those ideals upon our teams. Please listen to and honor California's Indigenous heritage by changing the mascot as requested by our Native citizens. Representation and symbols are undeniably impactful, especially upon our youth. In changing the mascot, please consult local Indigenous leaders as to what would be appropriate. Let us be respectful and work together for a future that is truly just for all. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please be safe and stay healthy.

**57. Kenneth Hansen**

Dear Fresno Unified School Board: I am a Full Professor of Political Science and American Indian Studies at Fresno State University, as well as tribal staff for the Chalon Indian Nation of California, presently located in Bakersfield. I have lived in Fresno and been part of the Native community for more than 15 years. My Native heritage is extremely important to me. When I was three weeks old, I was adopted into a white family. From 1941-1978 68% of Native children were either adopted or fostered into white families due to US government family separation policies. I went to a high school in Orange County, CA, which had a Native mascot. I can tell you from first-hand experience that it is degrading and dehumanizing to Native students. This is also well-documented in academic literature, which I would cite were it not for the 250-word limit. Native American peoples are the ONLY racial groups that are routinely subjected to dehumanization and marginalization as mascots. As Doc Rivers so eloquently stated, "why do we keep loving a country that doesn't love us back?" Indeed, Native Americans feel the same as African Americans in this regard. We'd "get over it" if you would stop doing it to us. The name Warriors in and of itself is innocuous. Keep the name if you so choose. But, please, for the sake of the 50,000 or so of us Native peoples in Fresno County, including our children, change the mascot. Kenneth N. Hansen, Ph.D. (Shawnee/Cherokee/Lakota)

**58. Allison Birkle**

Hello, I am coach at Fresno High School and have always been uncomfortable with the school's mascot. I believe it is a disgrace to have a native person as a school mascot especially since native peoples were literally murdered, colonized and continue to suffer from systematic injustice. Let's get rid of mascots that symbolize the death and destruction of human beings. Thank you, Allison

**59. Nolan Henson**

I believe the current Fresno High School mascot should change but keep the name. I feel it is behind the times and could do better going into 2021. Our community feels the same and has been buzzing around on social media; my friends and colleagues suggest that the school district look into this as well. @valleynatives4change on Instagram, We are signing a petition and are currently at 6,585 signatures.



**60. Jonah Bassman**

Hello, I am a lifelong Fresnan and I think it's about time we change the FHS mascot (while keeping the Warriors name). We have a real opportunity to be on the right side of history, and it will be much easier to change it now while there's this great chance rather than have this incident down in the books as a time when FUSD chose the path of casual racism. Thanks for doing the right thing!

**61. Nancy Donat**

To Whom it May Concern, I would like to ask the a new mascot be considered for Fresno High. As a nation, state and city, we have done poorly in honoring the people and the land we now live on. We have a horrific history of disregarding a beautiful people group that is getting close to extinction. Please honor them today by listening to their voice and believing what they say. This mascot is hurtful and only shows one narrative. Please be bold and courageous and find a mascot that is honoring to the indigenous people of Fresno. Thank you. Sincerely, Nancy Donat, Fresno Resident

**62. Kurt Hishida**

My name is Kurt Hishida. Graduated from Fresno High in the Class of 1981. I had a great experience in high school but have later realized how diverse of a community that I had the benefit of living in. This opportunity helped prepare me for meeting others living outside of my community when joking the Army after graduation. To better prepare our students to appreciate the diverse community of Fresno, we must take any opportunity to portray any culture positively and free ourselves from stereotypes. Clubs and activities recognizing the Native Americans would be a move in the right direction. Thanks for the opportunity to share my appreciation for Fresno Unified. Kurt Hishida, Fresno California grown and resident.

**63. Braedon Worman**

Dear Fresno Unified Board Members,

The Fresno High mascot is a horrendous stereotype that is offensive to our indigenous brothers and sisters who have made their home in what is now Fresno for thousands of years. They were here first. This is their ancestral home - a place where they should feel honored and respected and not insulted. The current Fresno High mascot is demeaning and contributes to the psychological devastation of native peoples in our country. Today, we have the opportunity and obligation to make change in a small yet meaningful way. There is no logical reason why this mascot should not be changed. The Golden State Warriors of the NBA are a great example of an organization who recognized that their mascot was demeaning to native peoples and made the appropriate changes while keeping their name. It is past time for our school district to follow suit. As a passionate Fresno Unified alum, I want to be able

to be proud of our schools and feel good about donating to them. Acting in accordance with the inclusive values we espouse, especially at the high school that bears our city's and district's name, will go a long way towards creating a school district we can all support. Thank you for taking this issue seriously. Native peoples in our city, state, and nation have been through so much. Let's do a small thing that will help bring healing and pride to our area. Change the Fresno High mascot today!

**64. Virginia Crisco**

Dear Fresno Unified,

As the mother of a daughter who is American Indian who is also a student in Fresno Unified (and who might go to Fresno High), I implore you to change the mascot of Fresno High School to something that is more positive and that does not perpetuate harmful and negative American Indian stereotypes. It is important that public schools represent ALL of their children and make it a welcoming place for all races and cultures -- that should be more important -- and at the forefront of the board's mind -- when making this decision. Because our history in the United States does include oppression and racism, choosing the path of "tradition" means that you are now -- deliberately -- choosing a path of racism and oppression toward our American Indian Students. Thank you for doing the right thing by creating a welcoming place for ALL students.

**65. Alex Desiga**

Board Members, I am hopeful that you are all able to see the gravity of your decision on this matter. You have been progressive in your endorsement of ethnic studies in FUSD and now have been given the perfect opportunity to show where your heart is truly at, while continuing to push our district forward. It is often said "we cannot do better if we do not know better" but seeing the signatures, the photos, the videos, the thorough explanations as to why the Fresno High Mascot should no longer be a Native American person, I believe you all have now been informed. One group argues for nostalgia, and one group pleads for humanity. Don't disappoint us. Change the mascot. Alex Desiga, Yaqui Tribe Descendant, Fresno High Area Resident

**66. Abbie Sandquist**

Hello, I am writing with respect to the Fresno High Mascot Issue. It surprises me that there is resistance to change the Mascot. Representing a group of oppressed people as a logo, costume, or mascot is clearly unacceptable. Continuing to project images that make students or community members feel disrespected and ignored is far from what should be at the heart of an educational institution. You should instead be quick to listen and correct mistakes, and uplift all of your students and the people they care about. Demonstrate the type of humble and compassionate leadership you would hope develop in your students. I urge you to listen to the voices of your students, treat them with dignity and respect, and change the Mascot logo. You

can even keep the name 'warriors', but should rapidly and unanimously distance yourself from the outdated, racist, oppressive symbol that currently accompanies it. Listen to the voices of those who this affects the most, rather than erring on the side of resistance to change just for the sake of tradition, or because you do not personally feel as affected as those who are speaking out. Change the Mascot. Regards, Abbie Sandquist

**67. Vana Tellalian**

Dear Fresno Unified Board Members,

As a local Armenian-American I want to show my support for the removal of the Fresno High School's mascot. I am inspired and impressed with how Valley Natives for a Change and Jamie Nelson have gone about this issue. I believe the removal of the mascot will show progress and understanding of the land we live on and respect the Yokuts natives who have been affected time and time again. Please listen and follow the words of our youth as they also wish to make positive changes to our community. Thank you for your time and all the work you do. Vana Araxie Tellalian

**68. Gregory Cox**

Please allow me to make comments by email on the Fresno High Warrior mascot. My name is Gregory Cox, Treasurer of Fresno High School Alumni Association. As an officer of the FHS Alumni Association I believe that our voices should have a fair representation of our position on this matter. Thank you in advance for excepting this request. Gregory Cox Treasurer

**69. Taya Jackson**

Hello, my name is Taya Jackson. I am a current junior at Edison high school in Fresno Unified School District. I am writing to you today to discuss changing the use of Native imagery with the Fresno High Mascot. The native imagery that Fresno High is using is very disrespectful and should not be used as amusement. The Warrior mascot at Fresno High portrays all Natives as one stereotype. This is very dehumanizing and oppressive. School should be a learning environment for kids and a safe space. The use of Natives as a mascot makes it not a safe space. The position I am currently taking is that Fresno Unified should change their mascot immediately. Sincerely, Taya Jackson

**70. Emmanuel Martin**

Hello, my name is Emmanuel. I am a current Junior. I attend Edison High in the Fresno Unified School District. I'm writing to stand against the racist and insensitive mascot at Fresno High. I believe the Mascot should be changed. The mascot should be changed because Native students at Fresno High face racism and embarrassment due to the mascot. It's Indigenous pain put on display. It's also highly disrespectful due to the fact that the Native headdress is sacred and not meant for entertainment. Indigenous people are humans,

not a mascot. The following are the reasons why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to remove the mascot. Sincerely, Emmanuel Martin

**71. Ricka Majors**

Hello, my name is Ricka Majors. I am currently a senior and I attend Edison High School in the Fresno Unified School District. I'm writing to you, the school board, as a concerned student. As I'm sure you're aware, the Fresno High School's mascot is not only offensive but hurtful to many who see it and I think it'd be best if the mascot were to be removed. When a school has that type of mascot, the type that depicts racist and insensitive imagery, people may create an assumption of the school that can create a harmful and toxic environment for students. Additionally, I believe no one should be a mascot; a racist depiction of Native Americans shouldn't be paraded around as though there is no meaning behind the image. Lastly, I believe that the FUSD promotes inclusivity and unity amongst its students so racist imagery such as the Fresno High mascot serves no place here in the community. I hope the board hears this, and makes the right decision to remove the mascot. Sincerely, Ricka Majors

**72. Simone Alford**

Hello, my name is Simone Alford. I am currently a Junior. I attend Edison High School in the Fresno Unified School District. I am writing regarding changing the Fresno High Mascot. The use of Native imagery with the Fresno High Mascot is disrespectful to the Native American community. The use of a Native American Mascot is a form of iconographical, institutional, and ideological oppression. The image of the Native American Mascot is sacred and should not be used for amusement and entertainment since it's cultural appropriation. There is a religious component to war paint and feathers, and this has nothing to do with high school activities. They are not your mascot. The following are the reasons why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to remove the Fresno High Mascot. Sincerely, Simone Alford

**73. Diana Bowlin**

Hello, my name is Diana Bowlin. I am currently Junior. I attend Edison High School in the Fresno Unified School District. I am writing in regard to changing the Fresno High Mascot. The use of Native imagery with the Fresno High Mascot is disrespectful to **(email was incomplete)**.

**74. Rain Carter**

Hello, my name is Rain Carter. I am currently Junior. I attend Edison High School in the Fresno Unified School District. I am writing in regard to changing the Fresno High Mascot. The use of Native imagery with the Fresno High Mascot is disrespectful to the Native American community. The use of a Native American Mascot is a form of iconographical, institutional, and

ideological oppression. The image of the Native American Mascot is sacred and should not be used for amusement and entertainment since it's cultural appropriation. There is a religious component to war paint and feathers and this has nothing to do with high school activities. They are not your mascot. The following are the reasons why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to remove the Fresno High Mascot. Sincerely, Rain Carter

**75. Camarynne Chanthavong**

To Fresno Unified Board of Trustees: Hello, my name is Camarynne Chanthavong. I am a current senior attending Edison High School in Fresno Unified School District. As a progressive teenager in today's society, I am actively working to be an anti-racist, using my voice to take action in learning about minority groups and supporting them. I am firm on my stance of changing the Fresno High warrior mascot as it is dehumanizing and derogatory to reduce a group of people to one stereotype. The iconographical oppression of belittling a silenced minority group to one image is offensive. It creates prejudice and harms many of the Native students who are surrounded by people who only understand them as this single image. From the other side, there is an act of indifference in which they hear the stance from the group asking for change, however, there isn't an understanding or a choice of ignorance. It is a very single-minded view. Along with not comprehending the other side, many do not recognize or know of the historical trauma. The acts of genocide and forcing Natives to reservations are not taught/only briefly overviewed in school. The reasoning of "tradition" is hypocritical to the acts of oppression demonstrated by past and present groups. The following are the reasons why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to change the offensive and degrading Native American mascot that generalizes and reduces the lives of a historically marginalized group of people. Sincerely, Camarynne Chanthavong

**76. Misa Nguyen**

Hello, my name is Misa Nguyen. I am a current senior. I attend Edison High School in Fresno Unified School District. As an emerging young adult into today's society, I am writing to express my opinion on the use of Native imagery regarding the Fresno High mascot. I believe that using a group of people as a mascot is dehumanizing, especially after all the suffering their ancestors have been subjected to throughout history and how Native voices are still being silenced today. Keeping the mascot after centuries of exploitation and genocide is extremely insensitive and it shows the indifference and dismissiveness towards Native issues. The mascot reduces Native Americans to one image, which is iconographical oppression, and that perpetuates racial stereotypes to continue. Native groups and individuals have been vocal about how they feel regarding the mascot and its offensiveness, but their opinions have been ignored, which gives the message that FUSD does not care about their Native students and families

within the community. The following are the reasons why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to change the mascot. Sincerely, Misa Nguyen

**77. Kelly Estrada Galicia**

Hello, my name is Kelly Estrada and I am currently a 12th grader attending Edison High in the Fresno Unified School District. I believe that having any person of any culture as a mascot is dehumanizing. Fresno High's culturally insensitive mascot depicting a Native American needs to be changed. Upholding the mascot restricts the idea of seeing Native Americans as diverse individuals. With the retaining of this mascot, those with Native American roots are bound to these stereotypical depictions. Having a Native American as a mascot is also dehumanizing as it pivots an entire culture and its people against many pre-existing mascots of animals. There are deeper meanings and truths to the headdress and face paint Fresno High has chosen to represent their "Native American" with as well. These are values and traditions of Native American cultures that hold deeper meanings than to what meets the average eye. The following are the reasons why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to remove the mascot. Sincerely, Kelly Estrada.

**78. Joshua Lor**

Hello, my name is Joshua Lor and I am currently a 12th grader attending Edison High in the Fresno unified School District. I believe that having any person of any culture as a mascot is dehumanizing. Fresno High's culturally insensitive mascot depicting a Native American needs to be changed. Upholding the mascot restricts the idea of seeing Native Americans as diverse individuals. With the retaining of this mascot, those with Native American roots are bound to these stereotypical depictions. Having a Native American as a mascot is also dehumanizing as it pivots an entire culture and its people against many pre-existing mascots of animals. There are deeper meanings and truths to the headdress and face paint Fresno High has chosen to represent their "Native American" with as well. These are values and traditions of Native American cultures that hold deeper meanings than to what meets the average eye. The reasons mentioned are why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to remove the mascot. Sincerely, Joshua Lor

**79. Jonas Kramer**

I am a FUSD student and I am an ally for Native students. I feel that the Fresno High mascot is extremely racist, and should be replaced. The mascot negatively generalizes Native Americans, while each Native American tribe is unique in their own way, not all wear war paint or use hatchets. Fresno High is built on Native land. If we say that we are honoring Natives, through the mascot, why do most Natives feel this is NOT honoring them? Native youth,

65% of them, are highly offended by Native mascots. Why don't we listen to Natives? Many schools do not have any Native Appreciation clubs or classes for students to learn about the history of the land we occupy. The APA (2005) called for "the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams and organizations. APA's position is based on a growing body of social science literature that shows the harmful effects of racial stereotyping and inaccurate racial portrayals, including the particularly harmful effects of American Indian sports mascots on the social identity development and self-esteem of American Indian young people." Let's choose to not discriminate against Native people.

**80. Kim DeOcampo**

Good Day Fresno School Board,  
My name is Kim DeOcampo, I am sending you this email to ask you the change the Fresno High School Mascot. I have worked on these issue since 2013 and have successfully been involved in the removal of (4) Indian Mascots, Names & Imagery. As Educators, you have a moral obligation to uphold the educational policies of your School District that promotes diversity and inclusion. Where in this conversation does the continuum of disrespect and mockery of someone's heritage and humanity for sports entertainment fit in? The belief that you have the right to use our Native People as you see fit is nothing more than an expression of white entitlement. The fact that people like yourselves are opposed to recognizing something that has been proven to be psychologically detrimental to our Native People, especially our Native youth who are forced to see themselves as caricatures with no value and by tolerating these racist images in our Public Schools, we desensitize generations of Children. We are witnessing a paradigm shift in the way that history is being reexamined, the removal of statues and monuments that glorify slavery and genocide, Cities across this Country have discontinued Columbus Day and replaced it with Indigenous Peoples Day. It is time, well past time that you honor us by teaching the truth in our history and remove these manufactured false images of who we are. This is what would honor us. Diminishing our sense of self in not educating.

**81. Alexandria Ramos O'Casey – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hi, I'm a Fresno resident, my name is Alexandria Ramos O'Casey I am commenting regarding the changing of the Fresno School High mascot. I would like to say that I am unequivocally in support of changing the mascot. This is a racist mascot and this is just a traumatizing thing and realistically if the NFL, if the basketball leagues can do it there is absolutely no reason that after Fresno Unified voted to be an anti-racist school district that this should even be a debate. I hope that every single school member understands the commitment they just voted for and vote to change the Fresno High School mascot. This traumatic violence needs to end. Thank you.

**82. Mary Lynn Zink Vance**

Why not follow the example of the Golden State Warriors. Keep the name but find a new image. Even the Cleveland Indians no longer use an Indian image. It's not a question of being politically correct or being a memorable tradition or that somehow it is respectful to Native Americans to use them as mascots in association with the name Warriors. It's a question of showing respect to Native Americans, who trace their heritage to a proud race of people, who do not want their images used as stereotype mascots. Mascots are usually animals or birds and sometimes specific people who are historically relevant to a particular place, such as the San Francisco 49ers. Mascots should not be a race of people. The Fresno High Mascot is a tradition that is overdue to be changed in 2020 for the sake of current and future FHS students. With thanks for your considering this issue, Mary Lynn Zink Vance

**83. Andres Arredondo**

Yes, I believe that this Fresno high school mascot should be changed. The fact is this mascot is racist and affect many native America people. If an official NFL team changed their mascots and their name, The former team "Red Skins", then I believe that no high school should have the right to continue to use a Native American as a mascot.

**84. Lina Tran**

Good evening,  
As a long term resident/community member/working professional in the city of Fresno, I am writing to urge you to vote YES on the removal of the current Fresno High School mascot. The use of American Indian mascots as symbols in schools and athletic programs is profoundly cruel. Schools, first and foremost, are learning institutions put in place to guide and teach today's youth. The mascot as it stands, teaches nothing but stereotypical, misleading and negative images of a group of people. Fresno High School is unintentionally (or intentionally if the mascot persists even after public comment) undermining the American Indian Nations' right to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality and traditions. As one of the largest school districts in California and a high school that boasts International Baccalaureate status, I implore the institution to do better. Remove the mascot and start a tradition of respect and humanity. Thank you for your consideration.

**85. Jasmin Lara**

Using Native peoples as your mascot is extremely insensitive. I suggest that you keep the name, and change the mascot.

**86. Gavin Bruce**

To Whom It May Concern,



The issue of the Fresno High School mascot, "The Warriors," came to my attention recently and, similar to the national debate around similar representations of Native peoples, it seems that much of the discussion revolves around identity, tradition, and how we honor people. While I understand people wanting to hold on to something that has been a constant and a "tradition" in the community, one must ask themselves: to what end and who are they actually honoring? The Yokuts people have lived in the San Joaquin Valley, from Stockton down to Bakersfield, for thousands of years. Their land, this land, was stolen through a long history of colonization and, to add insult to injury, their descendants must endure regular ridicule in their own homeland under the weak facade of "fun," "tradition," and most ironically "honor." While the Yokuts up and down the Valley, as well as other Native peoples across the country work tirelessly to revive their own languages and traditions that are essential to their identity as a people, they must endure ridicule by descendants of the colonizers exercising their own "tradition" that has neither the historical, nor cultural significance or centrality as those traditions being so ferociously fought for by the people these offensive mascots allegedly seek to "honor." Please retire the Fresno High School Warrior mascot. At the very least, change the image to another type of warrior. If a school mascot is truly a way honor a group of people, why **(250-word limit reached)**.

**87. James Young**

My daughter is a student at Hamilton and I support the changing of the Fresno High School mascot. When she attends Fresno High I want her to feel that she attends a school that honors and is respectful of native people and doesn't view them as mascots. If you want to honor Native Americans you should start teaching about them.

**88. Emalee Farley**

Hello,

My name is Emalee I am a resident of Fresno on unceded and occupied Yokuts land. I am an educator in Fresno and I demand that the Fresno High mascot be changed. Fresno High School sits on Yokuts Land. This land was taken through acts of genocide, systemic racism and oppression. The use of generic Native imagery as a mascot has not only caused pain to many Natives in the community, it reinforces archaic and racist ideas about Native Americans as violent savages from a bygone era. Students should feel safe and respected at school, and this mascot is blatantly disrespectful and painful to Native students. It needs to be changed. Change the #FresnoHighMascot, Change every #NativeMascot, We are #NotYourMascot, #FUSD

**89. Aristel de la Cruz**

To Whom It May Concern, I am a concerned teacher at South San Francisco High School. I am writing in support of removing Native themed logos or

mascots at Fresno High School. Our schools are practically identical in that we most recently voted to remove the image of a Native American head this past February. Many schools and institutions have since elected to do so. The current logo denies Native Americans of their full humanity by upholding a stereotype that freezes Native Americans in the past. It lowers the self-esteem of Native American students and creates an unsafe learning environment in which the racial microaggressions are deemed acceptable. This is all confirmed by academic institutions of the highest level, one of them including the American Psychological Association. Furthermore, the use of native themed images as mascots or logos in a school setting is in violation of California Racial Mascot Act which was unanimously passed in 2015 and have been active since 2017. I urge the board and the admin to make the right decision in removing the Native themed imagery as their mascot or logo. I expect that you will listen to ALL Native voices as well as the data that confirms the harm that these logos have on not just Native American students but also students of color. Below is a link of a mostly complete list of the schools and institutions that have made the change. You will notice that this request for change has been around for **(250-word limit reached)**.

**90. Sheryl Creer**

Hello, I am writing in support of Valley Natives for Change along with over 6,500 other individuals and organizations to CHANGE the Fresno High School racist mascot image. Not doing so continues to inflict pain upon people who have already suffered countless abuses. "The native imagery as a mascot has not only caused pain to many Natives in the community, it reinforces archaic and racist ideas about Native Americans as violent savages from a bygone era." -Valley Natives for Change, change.org petition (<https://www.change.org/p/fresno-unified-school-district-change-fresno-high-school-s-mascot-image>) This change is LONG overdue. Keep the name and change the image. Do the right thing. Sheryl Creer, Botanist, former resident of Fresno

**91. Michael Chen**

I support respecting the opinions of Indians or Native Americans who feel the Fresno High Warrior Mascot image is demeaning or disrespectful to their heritage or culture. Since I am not Indian or Native American, I believe those who also are not should respect the opinions of those who are directly affected by this imagery. It is easy for us who are not Indian or Native American to say that the image is not offensive, but we do not have the same background as those who are, and we cannot fully understand all aspects such an image could have on those with Indian or Native American heritage, nor can we fully understand how the continuation of such imagery is interpreted by others and how they will think of Indian and Native American history.

**92. Marissa Corpus**

Hello. My name is Marissa Corpus, a FUSD alumni. I am in support of the removal of all racist mascot images that are utilized by all FUSD schools. Many of you know that utilizing racist images is not honoring or representing. These ways are harmful, and reinforces society's dehumanization of the people represented, especially for our Native community. I have faith that our school board will listen to our Native youth and community and continue to take steps to protect the well-fare of our students.

**93. Sidney Sin**

Fresno Unified, I can't believe, in 2020, I even have to try convince a group of grown adults to amend racist imagery. The Fresno High Warriors logo doesn't honor Native American people. It does very much the opposite. Continuing to keep it makes the district look complicit in racism. I would think the embarrassment in that alone would spark some kind of change, but if you want be known for that, go off I guess?

**94. Ron & Roberta Genini**

To the FUSD Board: I am saddened but not surprised at the move to change Fresno High School's mascot from Warriors to...what? Fluffy Bunnies? I attended Fresno High from 1958 to 1960, and although I graduated from a different high school in 1961(having the unique opportunity with my family to experience South America) I have always considered myself a Warrior, and a part of the Class of 1961, being very active in the planning for class reunions since 1990. Every five years we have held a reunion honoring all our Warriors, including a special display for those who have died, known as our "Fallen Warriors." Never was there anything but respectfulness in the mascot title "Warrior," by which we honored the noble fighting spirit of the first Americans. Never was there the least hint of ridicule towards them. By the same token there was never the least feeling that we were culturally appropriating something that was not part of American heritage. That innocence has been stolen by those who want to divide Americans by identity politics. Perhaps it cannot return, and "Fluffy Bunnies" will be taking the field the next time anyone dares to do that in the face of pandemic terror. I believe someone has suggested keeping the title "Warriors" but replacing the images (there have been more than one) of Native Americans who appear to be of the Plains nations rather than of the people of our local mountains and valley. The suggestion I heard was to represent **(250 word-limit reached)**.

**95. Sofia (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hello, this is Sofia, uhm I'm calling from Fresno, California regarding, uh the Fresno High School mascot. I'm calling in support of the Yokut people of this land. They are the indigenous people of this land and I would urge the board members to consider changing the mascot of Fresno High School as it is seen as racist and denigrating to the indigenous people of these lands. I really think

this is an opportunity for the Fresno community at large to reconcile some of these things that aren't respectful of the Yokut people. So, I really hope that you take my comment into consideration. It's not even changing the name, it's just changing the mascot, the visual of it is something I urge you to do. Alright, thank you and have a great day.

**96. Carolina De Luna**

FRESNO, it is time we are long overdue for basic decency and respect. This land has origins and those origins have spoken, the Mascot is wrong! How dare we not see what is going on, but racism. Those that will go on record to keep mascot must examine their consciousness. Why do you feel your opinion overrides the Natives to this lands authority. We have national examples to follow because we are indeed behind! Please do the right thing for all the brown faces of the valley whom never felt the same respect as their white peers. Whom generations old can describe what I felt like to be a joke. Segregation discrimination and assimilation is an ugly legacy all tied to debates such as these. Change the mascot and have decency.

**97. Josefa Vega**

Fresno Unified, I am contacting you as a Fresno High graduate whose Native American peers expressed discontent and outrage as students there. The mascot stood as a reminder of genocide, ostracism, and as a continued mockery of Native American culture. It has nearly been a decade since I graduated and it is totally unacceptable that the very same insult to Native peoples remains at an institution that claims diversity and inclusion are campus priorities. Remove the mascot and provide healing spaces to indigenous students and staff that have negatively been affected by the caricature of Native peoples.

**98. Paul Roybal**

Dear Board,

It's come to my attention that the decision of whether or not to keep the Fresno high "Native mascot" is coming to a vote this week. I strongly urge the board to vote yes on the change, both for the honor of our City, and for the sake of civility. I've lived all around California and Fresno's just as good a city as any other. However it's decisions like this that show who we really are on both a state, and even national level. The last thing we want is for Fresno to be portrayed as a backward hole in the wall trailing behind the capital, Bay Area, and LA, but that's exactly what a yes vote would do. I can see the headline: "Fresno votes to keep outdated racial depiction as primary high school mascot". It may be easy for you to wave this off as being blown out of proportion, but these choices affect public perception of how we are viewed. Keeping it now would only show that we're a city unwilling (or perhaps unable) to grow. We have a chance to fix this before making a scene right now. If we don't, this is only going to get dragged out for what, decades maybe? I wouldn't

be surprised. Why is it so difficult to accept changes, when they could easily become improvements? That's the kind of legacy this city needs. I implore the board to vote for a positive change. Thank you for your time. Kind regards,  
Pau Roybal

**99. Christina Olague**

Hello, I am writing today to demand that the board stand up for Native students by changing the harmful image that is the current mascot. People are not costumes for sport, especially when those people have a history of violence and genocide committed against them. Native peoples, particularly the Yokuts people native to this area are saying they do not want their children growing up with their culture being mocked so disrespectfully and it's the school board's duty to listen. The movement against this kind of nostalgia for outright racist erasure of an entire cultural group is only growing during these unprecedented times. I suggest choosing the right side of history sooner rather than later because there is no more room for this objectification in the future we are building.

**100. Tracy Gordon Teran – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hi, my name is Tracy Gordon Teran and I am a faculty member at Fresno State, and I am also faculty, part-time faculty member at Clovis College. I am commenting on the call to change the mascot for Fresno High, uh and I would just as a mother as an educator I think that this type of imagery is something, uhm that is harmful. I am also a person of Jewish descent and know that negative images and stereotypes about Jewish people have been very controversial and caused abnormalizing of certain types of behavior or dehumanizing to certain groups and I think this is the same issue that we are working with, with our indigenous community and I would just like to say that I think it's time for change and I support Valley Natives for Change and I support my indigenous allies in the community calling for us to revisit how imagery can be very negative and abnormalizing stereotypes. Thank you for listening to my petition and in spirit of change. Happy Holidays.

**101. Jalishia Sanders**

The Fresno High mascot is a caricature of Native Americans. It is the equivalent of the minstrel shows mocking African Americans. Warriors can be anything from a gladiator to a Green Beret. There are a numerous number of mascots that can be chosen to represent Fresno High's Warrior spirit that do not mock or offend anyone. Fresno High can still be the Warriors without the Native American caricature as a mascot. Please vote to change it.

**102. Russell Lee**

Hi FUSD School Board, I'd like to support the changing of Fresno High school's mascot to something or someone which raises students' voices, identities, and spirits. I believe that having a caricature of a Native American, as a Chinese-American I'm aware of the American history of my own caricatures, as the mascot reinforces stereotypical views. Seeing there are many POC on this board, you too probably have experience with oversimplified images of who people believe you are. Please remove the mascot as we wouldn't be having this discussion if there was, let's say, a Chinaman as the high school mascot. Thanks, Russell

**103. Joliza Gomes**

Hello, I am writing to you today regarding Fresno High School's push to change the school mascot of the racist Native American caricature. Fresno High School is built on Yokuts' land, and many of them publicly stand against such caricatures of their culture and history and their usage as mascots. The Fresno Native mascot harmfully stereotypes and marginalizes Native peoples by attempting to portray them in an archaic sense and reinforce racist misconceptions of them as "violent savages". Although one might argue that keeping the mascot is tradition and honors the memories of Native peoples, not all traditions are good, and not all ideas of "honor" actually encompass honor. Real, living, present Natives across the nation believe that Native mascots are harmful and disrespectful to their legacies today. To ignore the voices of living people and believe you are "honoring" those who have passed away through the inherently racist ideas expressed in the mascot is, indeed, insensitive to the very same communities you believe you are uplifting by keeping the imagery. Over 1,500 Native organizations and advocates have openly signed and spoken against this issue. Choosing to keep the mascot would be an act of not only racism, but also hypocrisy that undermines the safe and educational atmosphere of school environments. Furthermore, the Fresno Unified School District passed an Anti-Racist Institution Resolution, where it vowed to take meaningful and genuine stances against racism in their community. The time for change is now. Remove the racist caricature at Fresno High.

**104. Tre Finley**

Hello, my name is Tre Finley, and I am a current senior at Edison High in the Fresno Unified School district. I am not debating if the mascot is racist and the people who want it to change should have it change but we also must change every other racist school in the country if not the world to truly have peace and every single person who contributed to these schools. I am not debating whether it's racist because it is, but personally I am not going to go out my way to make change because that would be stressful and a waste of time for me. Another reason is I know people who are Indians who would not protest on their own and would only do it to probably cause more violence or hate within the

community. Even if we did go out to have a peaceful protest, we would have to change the mascot of every other school in the nation to truly find peace within ourselves since we care so much how Caucasians think of us in this Caucasian dominant society. The following are the reasons why the Board of Trustees in Fresno Unified should vote to keep the mascot at Fresno High. Sincerely, Tre Finley

**105. Neum NASA**

Dear Fresno Unified School District Board Members,  
Neum Native American Student Association at Fresno State supports the petition to remove the Fresno High School mascot imagery. As scholars we have experience that not having Native American classes at a younger age have affected us in higher education. Learning about our histories with the United States can be traumatic. A quote from American Psychiatric Association (APA) states, "American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian populations have disproportionately higher rates of mental been directly linked to the intergenerational historical trauma forced upon this population". Every time we see these mascot images, we're reminded of these traumatic histories, which hinder our education. The APA recommended the retirement of American Indian mascots in 2005. They mention that these mascots "establish an unwelcome and oftentimes hostile learning environment for American Indian Students that affirms negative images/stereotypes that are promoted by mainstream society". The mascots are composed of stereotypes made up about Native Americans. It takes our complex cultures and identities and puts them into a box. Having to go to school and seeing these mascots everyday only serve as a constant reminder of how most people view you. In the same APA article, they mention the fact that the use of American Indian mascots, symbols, and images not only affect American Indian students, but all students as well. We hope the removal of the imagery can lead to a newly found partnership with the Indigenous community. Sincerely, NEUM Native American Student Association @Fresno State

**106. Brandi Nuse-Villegas**

Dear Fresno Unified School Board, I support the demand by Fresno Natives for change and the students asking that the name of the Warriors be changed. There may be natives that don't care or don't mind, but those don't minimize the opinions and beliefs of the native that do care and want it changed. Our native community is not a novelty. I know there is a long tradition behind this, as with other mascots named after the native population, but our nation also has a long traditional of dehumanizing the indigenous population, including treating them like characters, rather than fellow complex human beings, and that has led to justifying mascots by suggesting that the names are "positive." The native students are aware of this and the students need to see that the adults who represent them demonstrate a priority of affirming their humanity and dignity over sentimental connections to a name. If there are those who say that the mascot

acknowledges and celebrates the native community and that is a value- please consider other ways to celebrate them that aren't rooted in demeaning attitudes. This is my neighborhood and students from my community and I wish for their demands to be respected and met. Thank you. Brandi Nuse-Villegas, District 7 resident

**107. Lupe Cortez**

I am e-mailing you as a Yaqui woman living in the Central Valley, and asking that the school board change the name and picture of the Fresno High mascot. At face value these mascots may not seem to be anything more than entertainment, but in actuality they dehumanize thousands of my fellow Indigenous brothers and sisters. We are more than a mascot, we are people who have survived attempted genocide at the hands of settlers and the US government. Mascots reduce us to a stereotype, often times using regalia we consider sacred. The dehumanization of ourselves and our culture further leads to violence against us and our communities, especially when we speak out for our people. Eyes are on the Fresno Unified board to do the right thing, and I hope you all will vote for the removal of all Indigenous mascots and logos. Best regards, Lupe

**108. Sally Vogl**

Greetings'

I think now is the time to honor the requests of students with native heritage. They are using their voices, as we teach them to do. Please listen to them. This move to change the mascot would reverberate beyond the halls of Fresno High. Thank you, Sally Vogl, A former Fresno High parent

**109. Michael Torres – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hello, my name is Michael and I am a student at Fresno State, uhm and I am leaving a message in regards to the Fresno High mascot . I feel that it is most important to listen to the students who themselves are members of the Native American community and feel offended by this caricature. Uhm, and I feel that by listening to them and how they are offended the board will be able to find the right and sensible thing to do.

**110. Joe Barron**

My name is Joe Barron, and as a Professional Educator, a descendant of an Indigenous Tribal Group, the Navajo, and a Historian, considering the failure of various factions within the Alumni group to reconcile with either the narrative of History, the notion of compromise, and\or the belief that symbols of Indigenous People are not to be things of Sovereign Ownership. That such factions would ignore the History, and\or threaten the next Generation for having the audacity to have an opinion; it is my sincere belief that the time to retire the Icon of the Mascot has arrived. The notion that the animus is not shared by the Supporters of the Mascot is negated by their unwillingness to discuss a compromise on the



matter, that when presented with opportunities for dialogue and discussion, they reject it with contempt, and the bile of centuries past. Thank you and good evening.

**111. Timothy Joe Razo, Jr. – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

My name is Timothy Joe Razo, Jr. and I want my comment to be known about the Fresno High mascot change. I am a proud warrior. I went to school at Fresno High from 1993-1997, my daughters even went there and my father also. I am also a proud Native American and I think this counterculture is going too far. I want my voice to be heard to keep the warrior mascot.

**112. Laura Stanger**

Hello,

During this time I hope everyone is keeping well and their loved ones safe. Stated in the title I'm writing to leave my public comment on the image depicted for the Fresno High School Mascot. As indigenous people having mascots and costumes of our diverse cultures is an insult. This is not an honorable way to pay reparations to those who have survived: the 60s scoop, descendants of those taken during this era in the U.S, residential school survivors and their descendants. My greatest hope is that this will be made right and changed. Official NBA teams did the right thing, thus anyone can. Imagining a singular high school in the heart of the Valley is incapable of change. Disheartening to say the least. Which is surrounded by Latinos/Hispanics and indigenous people. Doing the right thing is necessary, please change the mascot. Best Regards. Lauren Stanger

**113. Tu Miller**

To Whom It May Concern,

Please change the Fresno High Mascot. Removing the mascot doesn't hurt anyone, while choosing to keep it impacts many indigenous students in immensely detrimental ways. It's been confirmed by the American Association of Psychology (APA) that stereotyping of indigenous culture negatively impacts the mental health of indigenous children and their community. Fresno Unified should work to provide equity for ALL children, and that starts with stopping the amplification of racism and miseducation in schools. -Tu Miller

**114. Hilary Malveaux**

As a lifelong resident of Fresno and a woman of Indigenous American descent, I am in favor of changing the Fresno High School mascot. The Warriors' current mascot is racist and appropriates indigenous culture. It is time to end this. Thank you, Hilary Malveaux

**115. Anoush Ekparian-Hadden**

I am proud to teach at Fresno High. Our IB philosophy guides us to teach our students to become, "Inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who

help to create a peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” We have on our community website that also states we as teachers are “Committed to... [teach] students to act responsibly, think critically, and to contribute to our changing society.” Fresno is changing, the world is changing, and our kids are watching us to do the right thing. We have a saying of “Tradition, honor and excellence” at our school, but the mascot demeans our Indigenous children. How do I know? They have told me. The mascot is a tradition that is not honorable nor excellent and we need to show our youth, our community how we all at FUSD understand and respect what our diverse community needs. Change the Fresno High Mascot. We are on Yokuts land. Let’s be honorable. Thank you, Anoush Ekparian-Hadden

**116. Brenda Q**

Please take a second to come to terms with all the criticism received against the Fresno high mascot, because this is a violent act that only subjects colonization, learn the real history of the land we all stand on..

**117. Carrie Ayala**

Not only do all the racist mascots in Fresno Unified need to be changed—local history, including indigenous genocide at the hands of white supremacists whose legacy lives on today in leadership, land stewardship, and capital—needs to be taught to every local student, politician, and family, and the board needs to engage in a restorative process for the harms they’ve committed against the people running this campaign. Your values are reflected in the responses of the pro mascot people in their comments and actions, as well as your own. With the exception of Trustee Islas, every single one of you needed convincing. You treated community members to stereotypes, condescension, and deflection. Harm has been done. Do better. Change the mascots, get accountable, change your processes, and commit to sharing your new knowledge with those you represent. Stop fighting the people doing the right things, learn from them, and get on the right side of history.

**118. Nathan Rodriguez**

I am writing to express support for the campaign to change the Fresno High mascot (but to keep the Warriors name). It's pretty obvious that the generic Indian head mascot and logo is not intended to pay respect to the Yokuts people who originally inhabited this area before Spain, Mexico, and the USA began occupying it and who still live here to this day. Frankly, it's insulting and racist. It's a bad look. You can do better for your Yokuts students.

**119. Jessica Morales**

I am writing to extend my support and call for the elimination of Fresno High’s racist mascot and at every other school within the district. FUSD declared the district to be anti-racist and anti-bias, “acknowledging the impacts of racism on the academic outcomes and socio emotional well-being of students”. This is the

time to show your students and the community how your actions align with your values. The continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities establishes an unwelcome and hostile learning environment that affirms negative images and stereotypes that are promoted in society. If the National Football League can understand the harm that is caused by exporting racism, so can you. Remove the racist mascots from all FUSD schools!

**120. Elizabeth Wick**

This issue came up in the early aughts, this is not new. I believe that the proposal to keep the name, but remove the imagery is a more than reasonable one. Please approve this change.--Elizabeth Wick M.A.

**121. Maya Kratzer**

Dear FUSD Board Members, I am writing to you today as a FHS alumna (2012) in full support of changing our current mascot. First and foremost I am in support of changing the mascot because Indigenous people in the Central Valley have made this demand. While this alone is reason enough to change the mascot, research across disciplines further demonstrates why doing so is necessary for the wellbeing of FHS youth and for promoting respect and equity across Fresno as a whole. I know you are already familiar with this research (Davis-Delano et al., 2020 among others), but I want to reiterate that the findings are clear: Native mascots are harmful to the psychological well-being of Native youth and reinforce discrimination among non-Native people. I hope you will take into account the current data and the demands of Native people in our valley community, in particular the Yokuts people (whose land we currently occupy). I believe that as an educational institution, FUSD has an obligation to make research-backed decisions. I believe that as board members, you would compromise your commitment to the "success of every student and every school" along with your stated core beliefs and commitments if you refused to change the mascot. I ask that you take this opportunity to show FUSD students of the past, present, and future that you will use scientific evidence to inform policy, and that you continue to value the education and success of all students. Sincerely, Maya Kratzer, FHS Class of 2012

**122. Marisa Moraza**

On behalf of Fresno Barrios Unidos, we stand in solidarity with Valley Natives for Change and whole-heartedly support the removal of the racist native imagery at Fresno High School. Fresno Unified recently passed an "Anti-Racist Institution Resolution" and "Ethnic Studies Resolution" that explicitly names a commitment to equity, taking a "stand against racism and discrimination in all forms" and "evaluating and dismantling practices and policies that lead to disproportionate outcomes for students according to race." It is time for the district to take action and meet this commitment. The removal of native mascots is long overdue. This is an issue that expands beyond Fresno High School and we urge the Fresno Unified board of trustees to take action to remove ALL

Native mascots from their school sites.

The work of Valley Natives for Change has exposed the failures of Fresno Unified to care for Native students and occupied Yokuts land on which this institution stands. It is time for the district to invest in Native students and their families and center the lived experiences of indigenous peoples. It is time to change the mascot #NoMoreNativeMascots #NotYourMascot

**123. Kiera Kaiser**

Hi, please vote to change the Fresno High mascot. Mascots are a symbol of pride for schools, but to have a cartoon of a Native American is inappropriate. We wouldn't put a caricature of one of our past presidents on a t-shirt as a mascot, or any other person of respect and honor. People should have respect for Native Americans, so set an example for your students and change the mascot. Thanks, Kiera (a student)

**124. Victoria Crow**

Hello,

My name is Victoria Crow. I am Chukchansi Native and Dutch. I'm reaching out to you to implore that the Fresno High Mascot be removed. It is a highly offensive image that doesn't hold a candle to the vast culture and history of the Yokuts people who's lands were stolen for Fresno High to even stand upon. You say that you're "honoring" us with the mascot image when in fact it is the absolute opposite. How can you honor with an offensive caricature and then not even have any clubs or classes that TRULY honor and validate your native students? Please do the right thing and remove this mascot. Keep the warrior name. How does a racist "tradition" outweigh the hurt and erasure of an entire peoples? Thank you for your time, Victoria Crow

**125. Minh Nguyen**

Dear Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District:

I am writing to express my deep support for the removal of the Fresno High School Mascot, because it is a depiction of a racist, oppressive caricature of Native American people and their culture. One cannot claim to honor a culture, when a majority of that culture is offended by the use of such depictions as a mascot. The trauma that these native students must endure when they see their people and culture devalued as human beings as they are compared alongside other school mascots that have mascots of beasts like bears and tigers. There should never be a mascot that depicts an entire ethnicity or culture. As per the resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Fresno Unified School District on October 7, 2020, the district "will examine and confront biases in our own school district and actively engage with students, staff, and families to address practices, policies and institutional barriers that negatively influence learning, perpetuate achievement gaps, and impede equal access to opportunities for all students in order to eradicate institutional bias of any kind,

including implicit and unintentional biases, to eliminate disparities in educational outcomes for students from historically underserved and under-represented populations;” I call on the Board of Education to act on its resolution of declaring itself an antiracist institution to vote for the ultimate removal of the racist Fresno High Mascot.

**126. Maricela**

Hello,

My name is Maricela and I live in Fresno, CA. I'd like to make a comment regarding agenda item B-17. I am in complete support of the Native American Community and I urge Fresno Unified to change Fresno High's racist mascot. You've heard from Native youth. You've heard from many concerned community members. This mascot is rooted in bigotry and they perpetuate negative stereotypes of Native American people. Does this mascot not anger you? The use of this mascot is abhorrent and should've been changed a long time ago. This depiction of Native Americans is derogatory and it is harmful ESPECIALLY to Native youth. Do what is right and protect Native students from this racism. Change the mascot NOW!

**127. Cristina Gonzales**

Haku Haku Trustees, I wanted to express my concern regarding the Fresno High mascot. As Roosevelt alumni and former president of the Indian Club on campus, I have been against racist mascots for many years. Our culture is not a mascot, it's hurtful and retaining this mascot is a tradition of racism. Now is the time to change it! As other schools and even the NFL realize that people are not mascots its now time to change. With the rise of ethnic studies and respect for cultures this is an important opportunity to make the right decision. Thank you, Cristina Gonzales, Chumash/Roosevelt Alumni

**128. Carly Tex**

I am an educator on Native American culture and languages, primarily Western Mono, which are prevalent in the Valley. I use the word "are" because we are still here. I used to think school mascots were not an issue, but my mind was changed when I learned about the psychological and sociological effects on an individual and how it perpetuates systemic racism. Scholarly studies in psychology and Native American studies show that it can have a harmful effect on Native students' self-esteem and dehumanizes them to others, making it ok for others to perpetuate abuse and racist acts, speak racial slurs, and make fun of Native dress and ceremonies. It also puts them into the past, but we are still here. Native Americans had to change over a brief time in the Valley's history, from removal off our lands, to the damming of the river, to children taken away to be assimilated in a society that wanted to be rid of them. After all of that, it's then ok for schools to make fun of our ceremonial dress and culture. The arguments to keep it are valid, but the arguments for change are valid too, the difference is that the reasons to keep the imagery are harmful. Be on the side

of history that works for reconciliation, resiliency, and hope. Change is good. A quick google search shows lists of schools nationally that changed their mascot nicknames and images, and I'm sure there are more.

**129. Dr. John Benyon**

To whom it may concern:

For the past twenty years, I have been an English professor at Fresno State, and I have taught many students who have attended Fresno High School. These are bright, well-prepared students who give me hope for the future of this community and this nation. I'm also heartened that so many are willing to speak up and demand that the long-out-dated and offensive mascot of their alma mater be retired. There is no doubt that this mascot is racist. Its racist nature may not have been or currently be the intention of its creators and supporters, but what matters is the impact it has on the community. In 2020, it is shocking that non-native people feel entitled to claim the image of a Native American person as their school or team mascot. #ChangeTheMascot. It's the decent and the right thing to do. Sincerely, John Beynon

**130. Alonso Santos-Gonzalez**

Hello, I stand in solidarity with the Central Valley Native Americans and demand the removal of the racist Fresno High Mascot. As an alumni of Fresno Unified, it is shameful that this mascot is still being used in this day and age to perpetuate negative and harmful stereotypes of our Native American youth and communities. Please, listen to what our Indigenous youth and communities are demanding and remove and change the Fresno High Mascot. Thank you, Alonso Santos- Gonzalez

**131. Sarah K. Hutchinson**

Dear FUSD Board Members -

To deny that mascots in the image of human beings strips folks of their dignity and is a reminder of a history of genocide is truly selfish, ignorant, and willfully hateful. Believing and taking action when Black, Indigenous, and other people of color tell us their lived experiences is the very least we can do. I urge you not to protect the sensitivities of white folks who have a hard time dealing with our collective racist past and present. I urge you to PROTECT NATIVE CHILDREN. Removing the mascot will not harm anyone. Keeping the mascot WILL HARM NATIVE PEOPLE and it will send a clear message to all young people of color that you do not value their humanity. Sarah K. Hutchinson, 1462 N. Wishon, Fresno, CA 93728

**132. Sarah Thong**

We can't tell marginalized people how to feel about their own marginalization. Only Native people get to decide what honors, offends, or traumatizes them. If FUSD is serious about honoring Natives, they should:

- Listen to Native voices.
- Understand local history.
- 1851: Fort Miller, near the original county seat of Fresno, was established in part to "control the Native Americans in the area." (The California State Military Museum)
- 1854: The Superintendent of Indian Affairs established the Fresno and Kings River Indian Farms, which "suffered from lack of water" and were plagued by squatters who "destroyed crops that were being raised to support the Indians." (National Park Services).
- 1860: The California legislature made it "even easier to have a California Indian child declared an "apprentice" without any involvement of his parents or relatives. ...[W]hite overseers did not have to pay the California Indians anything, and they were not free to leave." County and state records indicate Fresno County Justice of the Peace Hiram Dennis held Indian child "apprentices." (California Indian History)
- Listen to science. The article "The psychosocial effects of Native American mascots: a comprehensive review of empirical research findings" (2020) evaluated seven independent studies and concluded "Native American mascots yield negative psychological effects (e.g., depressed self-esteem, community worth, and future achievement-related goals, and increased negative feelings of stress, distress, depression, dysphoria, and hostility) for Native American students" and "can increase stereotyping of other minority groups."

I can't imagine enduring a mascot based on my ethnicity. Lead with empathy.

**133. Paul Leyba**

Let me start off by saying I find it irresponsible and quite frankly un American to continue to insult the people we're supposedly trying to honor. All the arguments for keeping the dang mascot I hear just say "oh well we're honoring the natives"- well obviously not if they're telling you it's insulting! Or the other one is from alumni, that's pretty much "oh that was my mascot when I went there and I'm proud of it"- so what you're not gonna be proud if it's changed to a fox or a cougar, or anything else? Give me a break. It's 2020, if this year has taught us anything it's that the rest of the country is moving forward. Don't let Fresno be left behind.

**134. Anthony Gonzales**

Dear Fresno Unified School Board of Trustees,  
RE: It's Time for Respect! Change the Fresno High

School Mascot! Greetings to you all,  
My name is Anthony Gonzales, and I am an alumni of Fresno High School class of 1967. I am also a Vietnam Veteran (1968-69) and currently the director of American Indian Movement-West, an Inter-Tribal human rights organization. For over thirty years I represented Indigenous communities at the United Nations as staff of the International Indian Treaty Council, a United Nations NGO. I also work in alliances with the National Coalition on Sports & Media. Over the last ten years health professionals, human & civil rights organizations including the United Nations have demanded that public and private institutions remove all images of Native Americans. As a result schools across the country, sports teams and others have taken the steps to eliminate these negatives images. Any mascot that depicts a people, cultural, or uses a costumed person at sports events, or promotes inaccurate images of the people, or performs in a manner that promotes stereotypes, or could be considered demeaning to the depicted group, or have members of the depicted group indicted that they are offended by the mascot or nickname, is inappropriate.\* The time is now for Fresno High School to join the mainstream of public institutions and reject the harmful and discriminatory image of their Native American mascot. I urge you to take action immediately. On behalf of Native Peoples and In Solidarity with Valley Natives for Change **(250 word-limit reached)**.

**135. Kassandra Hishida**

My name is Kassandra Hishida and I am a Fresno resident living on Yokuts Land in Trustee Area #5. I urge the FUSD Board & Fresno High community to take immediate action and change the Fresno High School Mascot through a process that is respectful, timely and accountable to Native American communities in Fresno. Fresno High School can keep the Warriors name but it's time to change the Native image. In October 2020, you passed a resolution declaring FUSD an anti-racism institution. In your own words, "Fresno Unified School District Board of Education acknowledges the impact of racism on the academic outcomes and social-emotional wellbeing of students." Over the past few weeks, I've heard dozens of stories from Native youth, elders and families describing how they have been negatively impacted by racist mascots such as the Native image used by Fresno High School. There is also a wealth of peer-reviewed scientific studies that affirm the experiences highlighted in these personal testimonies. Changing the Fresno High School Mascot is an urgent and immediate opportunity for FUSD to uphold the commitments and values outlined in your resolution. As a community, we must do more to support the wellbeing and success of Native American students & families. One simple but important step in the right direction is to change the Fresno High School Mascot immediately. It is time to listen to and respect the requests of Native American communities in Fresno and across the Central Valley. Native people are not mascots! In solidarity, **(250-word limit reached)**.



**136. Amanda Castro**

Hi, my name is Amanda Castro. I wanted to express my public comment in favor of changing the Fresno Highschool mascot. Please change the mascot

**137. Jaime Chavez Duarte**

Hello,

It is important to acknowledge that we are disrespecting indigenous nations by having them as mascots. I hope that you do what is right and change the mascot.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Mills, the Board approved to retire the image of the Fresno High mascot, to keep the Warrior name, and to allow a design process led by students to develop a new image which is to be in place by the beginning of the new school year. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0, as follows: AYES: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, and Board President Thomas. NOES: Board Member Major Slatc.

For the record, staff has been directed to agendize, on a future agenda, the discussion of an investment in the creation and development of ethnic studies for Native American students and a language lab specifically for indigenous people of Fresno, the Yokut.

**B-18, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2019/20 Audited Financial Statements Prepared by Crowe LLP**

For the record, the Board requested an abridged version of the presentation unless statutory regulations prohibited. Interim Chief Financial Officer Santino Danisi was available to provide clarity.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record zero submissions of public comment were received for Agenda Item B-18.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved Agenda Item B-18, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatc, and Board President Thomas. ABSENT: Board Member Mills.

**B-19, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2020/21 First Interim Financial Report and Approve the 2020/21 Budget Overview for Parents**

For the record, the Board requested an abridged version of the presentation unless statutory regulations prohibited. Interim Chief Financial Officer Santino Danisi was available to provide clarity.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record zero submissions of public comment were received for Agenda Item B-19.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved Agenda Item B-19, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas. ABSENT: Board Member Mills.

**B-20, DISCUSS and APPROVE Call for Appointments to the California School Boards Associations' Delegate Assembly**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record zero submissions of public comment were received for Agenda Item B-20.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Islas, the Board appointed Board Clerk Davis to the California School Boards Associations' Delegate Assembly, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas. ABSENT: Board Member Mills.

**C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**

There Board was in receipt of items C-21 and C-22

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Thomas ADJOURNED the meeting at 9:35 p.m.