

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

B-23, DISCUSS and DECIDE in the Matter of the Aspen Ridge Public School Charter Petition

1. Emily Sterling

My name is Emily Sterling and my son Kaiden Baharloo attends Aspen Valley Prep and would love to see him be able to continue with Aspen after 8th grade. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

2. Viridiana Zamora

Me llamo Alicia ZR__. Me estoy refiriendo al tema B-23 en la agenda de la Mesa Directiva del FUSD. Estoy a favor de la nueva escuela 7-12, Aspen Ridge Public School. He sido padre de estudiantes en una escuela actual de Aspen (o personal de las escuelas actuales de Aspen) y quiero que mi estudiante continúe teniendo la opción de asistir a una escuela de Aspen hasta la escuela secundaria. Creo que los padres deben poder elegir qué escuela es mejor para sus estudiantes. Summit Learning ha ayudado a mi estudiante a crecer tanto social como académicamente. Creo que Aspen preparará a mi estudiante para la universidad y una carrera. ¡Por favor considere votar SÍ para aprobar la nueva constitución de las Escuelas Públicas de Aspen Ridge para el período completo de 5 años!

Translation

My name is Alicia ZR__. I am referring to item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in favor of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of students at a current Aspen school (or current Aspen schools staff) and I want my student to continue to have the option of attending an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should be able to choose which school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student grow both socially and academically. I believe Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public Schools constitution for the full 5-year period!

3. Briana Cox

My name is Briana Cox. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of Jonah Cox who is attending a current Aspen school and my other son Asher Cox will be attending when he is of school age, and I want my children to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my son to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student and every student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term! Our kids deserve to continue their awesome growth together!

4. Raul Trejo

My name is Raul Trejo. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I work at a current Aspen school, and I want students to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that we should have a choice about what school is best for students. Summit Learning has helped students to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare students for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

5. Chynna Raymond

My name is Chynna Raymond. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

6. Yessenia Silva

My name is __Yessenia Silva. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

7. Erwin Chitay

My name is Erwin Chitay. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that

parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

8. Mark and Iesha Howard

We are Mark and Iesha Howard. This message is addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. We currently have one child attending an Aspen school and another child expected to begin the same Aspen school for the 21/22 school year. We would like our children to not only be able to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school for the benefits of Summit Learning, but to also have the benefit of attending high school with kids who also attended Aspen schools pre-high school. Please vote in favor of the new high school.

9. Laura Drury

Hello FUSD Board Members,

My name is Laura Drury. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools (Aspen Valley Prep) and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. I have been the registrar here at the Valley Prep site for approximately 15 years. During that time I have had the opportunity to hear from many of our families and parents. They and their students love our school and are usually very worried once their 8th grade year is over, because they don't know where to attend High School. They have always expressed to our office staff..."When are you going to open a High School?" This has been the heart cry of parents for many years. They love the smaller learning environment and feel their children thrive in this atmosphere. Going to a large high school can be overwhelming for some students. They would love to have the opportunity to carry on their education through high school and graduate along with their peers. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

10. Patricia Morgutia

My name is Patricia Morgutia, I have been teaching in Fresno for 15 years. I am addressing the charter for Aspen Ridge Public School, B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I would like to show my support for the new 7-12 school. I have been on staff at one of Aspen's current schools and believe that it offers a quality educational experience for students. Aspen provides excellent social and emotional education and support for our students as well. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new charter for the full 5 year term.

11. Anai Gomez

My name is Anai Gomez. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

12. Maria Claudia Dominguez

My name is Maria claudia dominguez

I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge

13. Stephanie Pacheco

My son attends Aspen Meadow and is in the 5th grade; he's been there since the 4th grade. He initially attended school in Clovis. After speaking with administrative staff at Aspen, I knew I wanted him there. The kids are held accountable and provided with the tools necessary to make them exceptional leaders. The staff at Aspen pay attention to detail and are committed to our students success, both academically and personally/socially.

In my opinion, we need more schools committed to our students success in the way Aspen is. By allowing for a 7th-12th grade school, it would properly prepare our, then high school students for life in the real world. Aspen Ridge would equip them with the means necessary to lead by example and pave the way for others as they embark on their young adulthood endeavors.

By going to Aspen Meadow, our kids learn to believe in themselves; building their self-esteem and confidence. They learn different ways of overcoming their obstacles and that anything is possible. Which allows them to set goals and take the necessary steps to achieve them. We need a high school that invests in our kids the way Aspen does.

I look forward to my son being a graduate of Aspen Ridge.

14. Janal Sandoval

My son started at aspen in kinder and they have by far been great to my boy I worry that by the time he gets into 7th grade he will have to transfer to a public school I cant say enough how wonderful things about this school their program and staff I hope you will allow this

school to be granted a middle and high school to keep the continued education going for these children

15. Scott Bergstrom

Good afternoon FUSD Board/Fresno education advocates,
My name is Scott Bergstrom. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been an employee of Aspen for 8 years now and fully believe in the quality education and social emotional experience that we offer our students. Josh Hodges and his leadership team are a phenomenal group of passionate experts that are ready for this opportunity. I hope that my son, now in Kindergarten, can have the opportunity to be an Aspen student through high school.

Please consider voting yes to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term! Thank you for everything you do for our city, Scott Bergstrom

16. Lisa Taylor

Hello,
My name is Lisa Taylor. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

17. Michelle Rogers

My name is Michelle Rogers. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at Aspen Valley Prep and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term! Thank you for considering this option for our community.

18. Ua Lugo

My name is Ua Lugo a parent of a child who currently attends Aspen Meadow. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Middle School. I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please vote YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

19. Eleanor Speakes

My name is Eleanor Speakes. My son, Cristian Speakes has attended Aspen Meadow School for the past four years, and is currently in forth grade. I am writing in support of approving Aspen Ridge Charter School.

I am very satisfied with the quality and fervor of education my child is getting, including his current distance learning during the Covid pandemic. The school was well prepared with tablets, hotspots, on-line curriculum, a breakfast/lunch program, and even a virtual after-school program to keep my child engaged academically, technologically, socially, and nutritionally. They also offer mental health, art, PE, music, and community resources to help meet the diverse needs of all students. It is also nice to have our resident law enforcement officers on campus to ensure safety, especially since the school is in a low-income, high crime area. Since the school purchased the campus, major funds have been used to improve the campus facilities (new roof, fence, paint, computers, and too much more to mention).

Aspen staff are a relatively small, but tight group of very caring, supportive, proactive, and collaborative group of professionals. Kids and families are known personally, more than just by name. The Aspen team is willing to go that extra length to work with students and families. We have also experienced first-hand the “village-type” embrace Aspen teachers, administrators, and community use to ensure all children receive necessary supports, resources, and tools to succeed.

And if they don’t have the specialized service or equipment, they will allocate funds, or **(250-word limit reached)**.

20. Steven Gomez

My name is Steven Gomez. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of a 6th student(s) at a current Aspen school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

21. Twilla Maldonado

My name is Twilla Maldonado. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am a parent of a student at Aspen Meadow school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

22. Shelly Coleman

Hello! My name is Shelly Coleman, and I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of a student at Aspen Valley Prep Academy for five years. My son is currently a 7th grader. I very much want my child to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I strongly believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their children, and I believe continuity of education is important. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically, and Aspen Valley Prep has played a key role in developing his budding leadership skills and interest in civic duty and service. I believe that Aspen Ridge is the best option to prepare my student for college, career, and future leadership in both his job and city. The stellar reputation of both current Aspen schools speaks for itself. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full five-year term. Thank you for your consideration.

23. Hilary Witts

In 2016, Aspen Valley Prep, started Summit Learning with two first year teachers and two provisional intern teachers to 77 students. Our first year, we saw an 11% increase in Math and 10% increase in ELA on the SBAC.

In my fourteen years of teaching, I had never seen a curriculum or program make that big of a gain in a single year. Since then, Aspen Valley Prep's, SBAC scores from last year beat the state scores in ELA in 6th-8th grade, and Math in 6th and 7th grades. Data you can see within our petition.

I've also seen this program support the teachers with incredible professional developments, resources, lesson plans, and workshops to take any teaching practice to the next level.

The Summit Learning program offers any year teacher the ability to engage their students in deep meaningful ways, both academically and to help develop the 16 lifelong habits of success - some of which are attachment, self-regulation, stress management, growth mindset, relationship skills, self-efficacy to name a few..

Our students are thriving with Summit Learning and even when they currently leave us to go to the high school of their choice, they are still using the skills they learned with us and quickly stand out amongst their high school peers. We know the Summit Learning program works in preparing our students for the 21st century and we will continue to offer it at all our schools in the future so that we can transform our community by developing exceptional **(250-word limit reached)**.

24. Maria Arellano

My name is Maria Arellano. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to

continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

25. Kristin Green

My name is Kristin Green. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

26. Sarah Crantz

My name is Sarah Crantz. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am on staff at both of the current Aspen Schools in my role as Director of Special Education. Our schools are dedicated to providing high quality education and desire to continue our work with our families through grade 12. Our students who receive special education services thrive in our schools and receive services that empower them to reach their potential. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term.

27. Priscilla Robbins

My name is Priscilla Robbins. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am a member of the Board for Aspen Public Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. My relation to Aspen Charter Schools started prior to becoming a Board member. As Director of Rescue the Children with Fresno Mission I have seen firsthand the impact the teachers and staff have on the families at Rescue the Children. They support the families not only in academics but take steps to understand the families background to support their emotional needs. I have seen children who do not want to attend school change their outlook and enjoy attending. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

28. Johana Perez

My name is Johana Perez. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen Meadow school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

29. Debbie Sawyer

I'm addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board Agenda. At Aspen teachers are close. We have to be. Too many of my friends have been treated so bad by the admin over the years. It breaks my heart but this year my friend was targeted for speaking up in concern. She's so nice and I know she wouldn't be rude to anyone. She was targeted and it's not fair. They said a parent complained about her but wouldn't give her any details. She had no way to defend herself because she didn't know why she was getting a write-up. We have seen so many teachers fired so fast. We are scared. She knew she was next to get fired so she quit. There's no union. Admin tell us not to meet with each other, to come to them with concerns but we really can't. Now admin says we're only allowed to get one letter of recommendation, from Shelly. It's policy now. Just one? How can we get another job with only one letter? I don't get it. It's like teachers are hostages. I'm upset and I can't stay quiet.

30. Cherida D'Souza

My name is Cherida D'Souza. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am the parent of student at a current Aspen school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school.

I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

31. Vicelin D'Souza

My name is Vicelin D'Souza. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am the parent of student at a current Aspen school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school.

I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

32. Oscar Gaxiola

My name is Oscar Gaxiola. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

33. Joseph Merrick

Good evening,

Even as of January 12 Aspen touts on its greatschools.org page that “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, The Leader in Me is used as a core of [its] character education program” although organization leaders confided in teachers that they were going to save \$10,000 by not renewing their usage license this academic year (2020-21) forward. The last time Mr. Hodges addressed you, the Board, he included The 7 Habits as a major social emotional component of Aspen Ridge when, in fact, it had already been jettisoned from the organization. We are not legally permitted to use the materials or teachings without an active license. Lying about its legal implementation, falsely advertising its usage, and misleading the Board would be clear ethical transgressions the Board should use as concrete insight regarding the ethically compromised underpinnings of Aspen Public Schools.

The organization seems to be cutting corners in another important aspect as well. The principals of both Aspen schools have had several years to gain the necessary professional training in the form of graduate degrees and especially administrative credentials. As currently understood, the two leaders, Ms. Rivera and Mrs. Taylor, as well as Mr. Hodges, have not even begun to pursue their credentials, nor do they hold even preliminary credentials. This blatant disregard for minimal standards—not to mention high standards—should also serve as a clear harbinger of Aspen’s looming downfall. They don't take their position seriously. And despite the copy-paste testimonials you’re likely to receive from **(250-word limit reached)**.

B-24, DISCUSS and DECIDE in the Matter of the Golden Charter Academy Charter Petition

1. Carrie Lorraine Ayala

My name is Carrie Lorraine Ayala, my pronouns are she / they, and I live in the Fresno High area. I have deep concerns about the “In The Public Interest” analysis of the proposed Golden Charter Academy. There appear to be a number of serious problems that could put the community and district in legal and financial trouble. I urge the district to pull the vote until further analysis can be done. Thank you.

2. Clare Crawford

GCA’s petition has numerous deficiencies and does not meet the basic requirements for a charter petition. This petition should be denied based on 5 of the 8 legal bases for denial. The school does not include a principal for its first three years, while funding a CEO without teaching experience, resulting in an unsound educational program.

GCA is unlikely to successfully implement their program due to major budget issues. A quarter of the budget is in a single line item, without any detail as to what is included and whether the costs are reasonable. The budget allocates 0% for CalPERS - an annual gap of between \$65,000 in year one and \$134,000 by year five. Staff did not evaluate GCA’s

January 13, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area

enrollment projections, which are unrealistic based on trends in existing local charters, resulting in lower revenue than projected.

The petition and staff report reveal serious conflicts of interest. GCA plans to enter into two significant financial transactions with the CEO, Robert Golden. This conflict is compounded by the participation on the GCA Board of Mr. Golden's mother-in-law, an FUSD Board member.

The school will have an undeniable fiscal and community impact on FUSD's highest-needs students, a concern the staff does not address. GCA's petition does not include the required number of signatures. GCA was unable to write an appropriate admissions policy and was provided one by FUSD's charter review team, an inappropriate role for FUSD staff. GCAs' petition has serious problems with budget, governance and staffing and should be denied.

~~**B-25, OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION of the 2020-2021 Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and California School Employees Association and its Fresno Chapter 143 - ITEM PULLED FROM AGENDA**~~

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

B-26, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2019/20 Bond Annual Report

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.