



BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
2309 TULARE STREET
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR
FRESNO, CA 93721-2287
board.fresnounified.org

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Fresno, California

September 15, 2021

Fresno Unified School District, Education Center, 2309 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on September 15, 2021, there were present Board Members Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, and Thomas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

Board President Davis CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:45 p.m. and ADJORNED to Closed Session to address items one through five.

Board President Davis left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Board Clerk Thomas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 5:45 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Clerk Thomas, seconded by Board Member Major Slatic, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation settlement for Sandra Washington Case No. 2017-0751, by a vote of 5-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, and Thomas. ABSENT: Board President Davis. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Superintendent Misty Her led the flag salute.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Honored and recognized the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latinx Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries. Superintendent encouraged the Fresno Unified Family to take time this month to dig deeper into Hispanic and Latinx history and heritage.
- Focused the rest of his remarks on our current efforts battling the COVID-19 pandemic and its increased strain on our district. This pandemic has thrown us all for a loop time and time again, and unfortunately, we can be certain that it will continue to throw us for more loops before it is gone from our daily lives. With the

HEAR Report from Superintendent – continued

- continued uncertainty, our team has never stopped working to bring as much clarity, guidance, and leadership to our entire system. It hasn't been perfect, and it won't be perfect. Superintendent recognized that many staff are working so hard just to keep the day to day operations running. Superintendent reminds staff that we see you, we love you, we are thankful for you hanging on, and we are working so hard to lighten the load.
- Provided updates on some of the work that has been happening behind the scenes to support our students, staff, and families recently. First, we've worked incredibly hard to step up to the plate as stand-in health care professionals as we've been tasked from the federal, state and local levels with so many layers of mitigation to keep our staff and students safe in-person. From surveillance testing, to contact tracing, to quarantining and isolation, to vaccinations and more, we've tapped all resources we can find to step into these spaces where we are not, and never will be, the health experts. Currently, we've been focused on the following:
 - Working to find an agreement with our nurses to implement COVID-19 safety practices such as modified quarantine, contact tracing, quarantine tracking, and more,
 - Rapidly interviewing, hiring, and training folks to ensure our sites each have a health professional on their campuses,
 - Training and equipping our volunteer school sites and volunteers to implement modified quarantine through administering our short supply of rapid tests at over 50 of our school sites,
 - Finalizing an agreement and starting a pilot with community-based organization (CBO) partners through the Immigrant and Refugee Coalition to provide 40 staff to help conduct contact tracing at our secondary sites, where contact tracing is even more complex with students moving from class to class throughout the day,
 - Working with partners at Fresno City College and Fresno State University to potentially help support our testing needs with nursing students,
 - Working with the state and California Department of Public Health on expanding our testing capacity through partnerships,
 - Working to increase our supply and access of COVID-19 rapid tests,
 - Working with CBOs, medical providers, and the county health department to bring more free vaccination and testing clinics to our school sites,
 - Working to find support, human capacity, and resources to implement the vaccination or weekly testing mandate for our employees by October 15,
 - Gathering and verifying proof of vaccination from our fully vaccinated staff members,
 - Developing, implementing, and improving our public-facing COVID-19 dashboard,
 - Working on streamlined processes to ensure teachers are aware of quarantined students to provide instruction,

HEAR Report from Superintendent – continued

- In addition to PPE being available for all staff to order from the warehouse at any time, usually through your office manager, Facilities has sent out additional PPE kits to every school site starting last week and continuing through this week – no orders needed,
 - Working on seating chart plans with sites and teachers to minimize mixing and increase the speed of effective contact tracing,
 - Working to increase the capacity of our COVID-19 Action Team to support sites contact tracing needs and modified quarantine support,
 - Partnering with our health providers and CBOs to bring even more vaccination and testing clinics to our sites to promote youth and staff vaccination,
 - And much more – all in addition to the increased safety practices already implemented through ventilation, sanitizing, masking, decreased class sizes, etc.
- Second, we've been battling a substitute shortage along with all other school districts. We have not seen a huge rise in absences or quarantines of our staff members, but rather we have seen a large decrease in the number of active substitutes taking jobs every day to support those vacancies. To help increase our substitute pools and increase the activity of our substitutes we've been doing the following:
 - We've launched and continued a large substitute hiring campaign for all classifications through television commercials, billboard, online, and social media,
 - Our local media partners have done several stories to help us get the word out for the need for substitutes in all classifications,
 - We've assigned all management staff, classified and certificated, to school sites to provide support in any areas needed as requested,
 - All certificated staff who are not currently in classrooms have been working to cover unfilled vacancies in classrooms every day,
 - All Climate and Culture site staff have been moved back to the classroom at eLearn Academy as we continue to increase staffing to accommodate the large influx of student enrollments,
 - We negotiated and finalized an agreement with FASTA to increase our daily pay rate for substitute teachers to a total of \$208.04 – the daily rate is now \$163.04 plus an additional \$45 per day to be prepared for potential simultaneous teaching,
 - Human Resources has provided a direct call/text line AND opened their doors for walk-ins every weekday from 1pm-3pm to support all applicant questions and to help them through the application process,
 - Human Resources and departments across the district have personally called substitutes, retirees, and previous applicants to ask them to return and help our daily staffing needs,

HEAR Report from Superintendent – continued

- Provided an additional \$200 in materials and supplies for teachers,
 - Deployed all Parent University staff to school site support while CBO partners continue implementing parent learning cohorts,
 - And much, much more.
- Shared these updates to be transparent with our entire Fresno Unified family on the work we are doing to address the very real needs in our system today. Superintendent acknowledged that we as district leadership can be hesitant to share things we are working on before they are 100% implemented for fear of things not panning out the way we plan or hope. What Superintendent mentioned might not all pan out exactly how we hope, but he wants to share with our teams, nonetheless.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Major Slatik, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Consent Agenda, was approved by a vote of 5-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatik, and Thomas. ABSENT President Davis. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

ALL CONSENT AGENDA items are considered routine by the Board of Education and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board member so requests, in which event, the item(s) will be considered following approval of the Consent Agenda.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

A-1, APPROVE Personnel List

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

A-2, ADOPT Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Board

ADOPTED as recommended, The Board of Education received and considered the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the September 08, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the September 08, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

- A-4, ADOPT Resolution Proclaiming the Month of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**
ADOPTED as recommended, a resolution commemorating the observance of Suicide Awareness Month.
- A-5, ADOPT Resolution Recognizing September 15, 2021 through October 15, 2021 as Hispanic Heritage Month**
ADOPTED as recommended, a resolution commemorating the observance of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- A-6, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Lion and Fox, LLC**
APPROVED as recommended, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Lion and Fox, LCC to identify and collect required data to be reported to the California Department of Education.
- A-7, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with United We Lead Foundation**
APPROVED as recommended, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with United We Lead Foundation to provide Migrant students an opportunity to participate in the Migrant Young Writer's Academy.
- A-8, APPROVE Fresno County Cradle to Career Partnership**
APPROVED as recommended, The Cradle to Career (C2C) Partnership for Fresno County.
- A-9, APPROVE 2021/22 Classified Hourly, Classified Food Services, Classified Operations, Confidential, Fresno Teachers Association (FTA) – Trades, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Crafts, Supervisory, Fresno Area Substitute Teachers Association (FASTA), Certificated and Classified Management, Nurses and Speech Language Pathologists, Teachers and Librarians, Teachers on Special Assignment, Designated Teachers, Career Technical Ed/Vocational Ed Teachers, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Instructors, Lori Ann Infant Center, Child Development Center and Pace Teachers, Adult Education, Pre-Kindergarten Teachers, and Classified Y-Rated Salary Schedules, and Prior Years Classified and Operations Y-Rated Salary Schedules**
APPROVED as recommended.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received nine requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's names along with a summary of topics are listed as follows:

1. Manuel Bonilla: The need for a well communicated COVID-19 plan.
2. Peter Beck: The need for a well communicated COVID-19 plan.
3. Trish Renfro: The need for a well communicated COVID-19 plan.
4. Marina Santos: Concern pertaining to lack of academic supports for teachers and students.
5. Rom Orm: Concern pertaining to exhaustion and burnout of teachers.
6. Meghan Schimmel: Concerns pertaining to extra workload due to COVID-19.
7. Marisa Rodriguez: Concerns pertaining to AC unit not working. Request for district to work with FTA.
8. Jose Sandoval: Concerned about combining classrooms due to substitute teacher shortage.
9. Josselyn Sandoval: Concerned about interrupted class time due to contract tracing.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-10, PRESENT and DISCUSS Redistricting of Trustee Areas within Fresno Unified School District

Presentation by Mr. Christopher Skinnell, partner at Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni LLP.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-10.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-10. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to timeframe listed on slide #3. Requested clarity on data represented on Slide #8, and how it compared to 10 years ago. Requested clarity regarding deviation compared to lowest/highest. Commented that mistakes within the first iteration of the presentation are a concern, as the expert there should be a dedication to detail. Trust is lost, how to mitigate? Requested clarity as to back trace of state penitentiaries. Requested clarity as to the boundaries that will be used for the Special Election for the vacant seat of Trustee Area 5. Requested clarity as to why attendance area boundaries are not a bigger part of the criteria. Commented on importance for community engagement. Requested clarity as to if school boundaries could be a criterion. Requested clarity as to the January 12, 2022

meeting. Requested clarity as to what level of community engagement will be involved. Mr. Christopher Skinnell and Chief of Staff Chavez were available to provide clarity.

B-11, PRESENT and DISCUSS Stakeholder Input on Potential Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Investments

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-11. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to if the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief funds were considered during budget discussions. Encouraged staff to communicate to families, might consider a communication cycle instead of all the information at once. Shared appreciation to staff and teachers for their work to help keep students in class. Would like to use the data referenced on slide #13 as the main priority going forward. Commented drinking fountains are often in disrepair and water bottle stations not working. Requested clarity as to if drinking fountains could be converted to water bottle stations. Requested clarity as to what will be done at end of year when budget is not available to continue to fund positions. Requested clarity as to what will be done with savings or unused funds. Requested clarity as to a rumor heard pertaining to police officers being pulled off campuses. Requested second chargers be provided to students, one for home one for school. Commented on vulnerabilities that create cycles of increased risk, such as obesity, diabetes, asthma, dehydration, heat, it is important to address these areas. Commented that teachers are using their own resources to purchase Personal Protective Equipment and air filtration systems. Commented on the tremendous stress teachers, students, families, and staff are facing. Commented on the need for culturally competent mental health providers within the community.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received one request to address the Board on Agenda Item B-11. The individual's name along with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Jenn Engstrom: Addressed lead in school drinking water.

B-12, HOLD a Public Hearing and ADOPT Resolution in the Matter of Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-12.

On a motion by Board Member Major Slatic, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, Agenda Item B-12 was adopted by a vote of 5-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, and Thomas. ABSENT: Board President Davis. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Member Cazares: Recognized retired teacher, Beverly Fitzpatrick. Received emails from community in support of keeping Forkner Elementary School's name. Encouraged continued collaboration with FTA.

Member Major Slatic: Shared has received communications from community in support of keeping Forkner Elementary School's name. Requested board communication pertaining to the Forkner naming issue. Requested information as to board member notification of when there is an incident of a gun on campus, is there a written policy, requested a board communication.

Member Islas: Shout out to Hidalgo Elementary School for hosting their Mexican Independence Day celebration. Shared information pertaining to a testing/vaccine event on Monday, September 20 at McLane High School. Provided shout out to student interns who are helping to promote and encourage peers to be vaccinated. Would like to promote/encourage the district to consider involvement with community clean-up events, to engage with the community liaison group. Commented students deserve to walk to school in a safe and clean environment.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Acknowledge and thanked those who came forward to speak about hardships faced pertaining to workload. Commented that vaccination clinic information needs to be prominent on district website and messaging. Requested a status update or community meeting to show work taking place on the Farber campus.

Board Clerk Thomas: Requested staff to plan for air conditioning at schools for teachers that work over the weekends. Requested staff who can help with books in libraries reach out to her.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

The Board was in receipt of three Receive items as follows:

C-13, RECEIVE the Fresno Teachers Association – Social Workers Unit Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District

C-14, RECEIVE the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to the Fresno Teachers Association – Social Workers Unit

C-15, RECEIVE Constituent Services Quarterly Reporting

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:06 p.m.