



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
November 03, 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 November 03, 2021, there were present Board Members Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Davis. 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 six.

Board President Davis RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:31 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Clerk Thomas, seconded by Board Member Islas, the Board took action in Closed Session to give Superintendent Dr. Nelson a positive evaluation for the period of August 2020 through September 2021, by a vote of 5-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, and Board President Davis. NOES: Member Major Slatic. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Information Technology Officer Tami Lundberg led the flag salute.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Thanked the Board of Trustees for another positive evaluation this year. It is not an easy time to be a leader, as they know themselves, but it continues to be the greatest honor of my career to serve our Fresno Unified Family. To lead effectively, we must simultaneously keep an eye on the bigger vision AND be able to pivot and respond to the urgent needs of our district daily. I'm proud that in the last 3 years the SBAC was administered prior to the pandemic, Fresno Unified increased the percentage of students Meeting/Exceeding Standards in Literacy by about 7% and by almost 8% in Mathematics. Respectively, this accounts for progress which was 3.5 times greater and 2.7 times greater than the State of California's change over the same period. I'm also simultaneously aware of and addressing the urgent need of the pandemic's effects on our student's achievement and progress, as well as the impacts on our staff and teachers. Our work is incredibly important and impactful, and I'm grateful to continue to have the opportunity to serve moving forward.

HEAR Report from Superintendent – continued

- Shared, we continue to drive toward solutions to protect teacher prep time while not reducing instructional minutes for students, disrupting schedules for families, or shifting additional burdens to site leaders or classified staff. In doing so, we are continuing to increase our substitute pool and their activity. Just yesterday, in collaboration with our labor partners at Fresno Area Substitute Teachers Associations (FASTA), we agreed to provide an additional \$200 stipend for substitute teachers when they work 20 full, consecutive school days as assigned by the district. That is an opportunity for our substitutes to make an additional \$1,260 dollars this school year. We also agreed to offer an additional \$100 shortage stipend for all substitutes who take a full-day, district assignment on Friday, November 12, 2021. With Friday falling after the Veteran’s Day holiday on Thursday, we are anticipating a large number of vacancies and want to be as prepared as possible to support our schools. Thank you to our Human Resources team and our partners at FASTA for making this happen.
- Shared, next week, the week of November 8 - 12, is National School Psychology Week. As a district we’ve consistently increased our social emotional supports year after year, and we couldn’t do without our School Psychologists! So, I’d like to publicly celebrate, recognize, and honor our Fresno Unified school psychologists and their contribution to students and to our entire Fresno Unified family!
- Shared, Fresno Unified is also proud to celebrate November as National Native American Heritage Month. Our curriculum and instruction team always spend time creating potential lessons and celebrations for teachers to utilize in their classrooms this month and I encourage all of us to take some time to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of our Native American community as the first inhabitants of this land.
- Announced to parents and students – next week is our Virtual Choose Your Future week! This week includes our School Choice Expo, CTE Ticket to the Future, and Student Showcase – all virtually! We will offer five days of virtual exploration from November 8 - 12 to help students of all ages and their families learn about our district’s magnet and specialized programs. This is an important time for students and families as they prepare for the December 1 deadline for school transfer applications. Our eighth graders will spend time with their teachers virtually exploring the options available to them as they prepare to move on to high school. Students will learn about specialty high schools and career technical education pathways, and explore campus culture, activities and sports options with students from their regional high school. Choose your Future Week also includes the virtual version of the district’s annual School Choice Expo. Using the online format, the district will host nightly live presentations, and families can visit virtual exhibitor booths any time during the week from among nearly 30 magnet and specialized schools. Head to www.fresnounified.org/schoolchoice2021 to register and make sure you get your transfer applications in by December 1, 2021!
- Shared, highlight of Yosemite Middle School’s Dual Immersion Program! This is one of the many choices available to students and families as you determine what opportunities are best suited for your individual child.
- Congratulated the whole Yosemite Team and all of our staff who make our School Choice options so expansive and accessible for our students and families.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received one request to address the Board on the Consent Agenda. The individual's name along with a summary of topic is listed as follows:

1. Andrew Fabela: Spoke to the need for substitute teachers.

On a motion by Board Clerk Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Agenda Items A-3, A-6, and A-9, which were pulled for further discussion, was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, Thomas, and 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 Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the October 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

A-3, ADOPT Emergency Resolution Delegating Authority to Take Necessary Action to Protect Students and Staff from Substitute Shortages during the 2021/22 School Year

ADOPTED as recommended, a resolution declaring the existence of an ongoing emergency within the district arising from a shortage of substitutes and delegates and authorizes the District Superintendent to take all appropriate action to respond to the emergency substitute shortage, including but not limited to, recruiting and retaining qualified substitutes to meet the district substitute staffing needs, ensuring and protecting the welfare, safety and educational wellbeing of all students, providing necessary staffing and instruction, and to reduce the need to deploy students and to reduce the need for having to use classified, certificated and administrative staff to cover for substitute shortages.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-3. A summary is as follows: Commented can see the imperative need to

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

address the teacher shortage. Requested clarity as to if the resolution will circumvent a teacher's right to decline. Requested clarity as to welfare and safety statement, are background checks being by-passed to expedite hiring. Commented does not see how the Fresno Unified Board of Education has hampered the hiring of substitutes, and suggested the resolution be amended to a proclamation rather than a delegation of board authority. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Clerk Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, Agenda Item A-3 was adopted by a vote of 5-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, and Board President Davis. NOES: Member Major Slatic. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

A-4, ADOPT Resolution Proclaiming November 08 – 12, 2021, as National School Psychology Week

ADOPTED as recommended, a resolution proclaiming November 08 – 12, 2021, as National School Psychology Week.

A-5, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the October 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

A-6, APPROVE Agreement with Green Meadows Outdoor School, Merced County Office of Education

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Green Meadows Outdoor School.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-6. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to how many students served and if there is a price per child. Requested clarity as to if the district is maximizing the slots. Assistant Superintendent Bryan Wells was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas, Agenda Item A-6 was approved by a vote of 6-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Davis. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

A-7, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the following projects:

Bid 20-19, Fresno High School Career Technical Education (CTE) Building Construction
Change Order 7 presented for ratification \$ 24,533

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

Bid 20-49, Juan Felipe Herrera New Elementary School
Change Order 4 presented for ratification \$ 83,643

Bid 21-34, Ventura and 10th South Campus Site and Tenant Improvements,
Buildings C and D
South Campus Site, Change Order 2 presented for ratification \$ 42,633
Tenant Improvements, Change Order 2 presented for ratification \$ 428,236

A-8, RATIFY Purchase Orders from August 01, 2021 through August 31, 2021 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from August 01, 2021 through August 31, 2021. 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-9, RATIFY Purchase Orders from August 01, 2021 through August 31, 2021 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from August 01, 2021 through August 31, 2021.

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

“Agenda Item A-9 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC). I was previously employed with the Fresno EOC which is a nonprofit corporation. I did not participate in the making of these contracts related to these purchase orders, but because of my previous employment with Fresno EOC I have a remote financial interest in these 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 Clerk Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item A-9, was approved by a vote of 5-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Major Slatik, Thomas, and President Davis. ABSTAINED: Board Member Jonasson Rosas. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Scarlet Grandos Salagado: Concerns with Fresno High School Aquatics.
2. Maria Nayeli Salazar Urbina: Concerns with Fresno High School Aquatics Program.
3. Octaviana Gonzalez: Does not support changing of instructional minutes.
4. Fabiola Felix: Does not support changing of instructional minutes.
5. Carmen Zamora: Concerned about academic data during pandemic.
6. Marcus Winston: Requested expansion of League of Black Leaders pilot program.
7. Rodger Brown: Requested funding for Watch Us Grow program.
8. Dr. KaHinde Sowazi: Yielded time to Mr. Winston.
9. Mr. Fabela: Requested name of firm investigating board members.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-10, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution 21-10 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of 2021 Refunding General Obligation Bonds to Refund Outstanding General Obligation Bonds of The District and Approving Related Documents and Actions

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 the savings realized by the issuance of the bonds and the time period covered. Chief Financial Officer Santino Danisi was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, Agenda Item B-10 was adopted by a vote of 6-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Davis. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA - continued

B-11, DISCUSS and APPROVE Nomination of Additional Committee Members that will Develop a Draft Policy on Renaming School Facilities

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-11.

For the record, there were no comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-11 from Board Members .

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item B-11 was approved by a vote of 6-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Davis. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

There were no items for this section of the agenda.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Member Jonasson Rosas: Requested clarity as to status update of Hmong Dual Immersion program. Requested status update of facilitating access for vaccination sites.

Member Cazares: Thanked staff, students and parents in the Hoover Region for their continued dedication support and patience which is helping to ensure students can learn and have a safe environment to learn. Shared she will have a meeting with Hoover Region teachers. Shared it is crucial we continue to collaborate, strategize and move forward together. Requested clarity as to if there are plans to provide student progress, and for student progress information to be made easier to read for families. Requested to be provided the completion date of the HVAC system at the Hoover High School Event Center and timeline of modernization of Hoover High School Library.

Member Islas: Recognized Native American Heritage Month and declared we sit on stolen land which is the home of the Yokuts. Thanked staff, administrators, and teachers who incorporated Dia de los Muertos into art, activity, and lessons. Thanked Hoover High School athletics and football team and congratulated McLane for their win of the Revolution Bowl. Requested an objective review of where investments can be made to improve outcomes of English Learners. Requested clarity has to how the district is building a more robust after school program in support of student needs and individualized learning.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION - continued

Board President Davis: Shared information from attendance to the California Association of Black School Educators conference. Requested status update of when students at Fresno Adult School will receive computers. Thanked Javier's restaurant for support in feeding football players.

Board Clerk Thomas: Shared information from attendance to the California Association of Black School Educators conference, specifically a book purchased titled, *Bottled Up*. Shared she is looking forward to the work the district will do after reading this book.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:55 p.m.