MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Fresno, California
January 12, 2022
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 January 12, 2021, there were present Board Members Cazares, Islas, Davis, Major Slatic, and Board President Jonasson Rosas. Board Member Thomas was absent. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

Board President Jonasson Rosas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:45 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items
For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

Board President Jonasson Rosas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session
- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Major Slatic, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Workers’ Compensation settlement for Alfred Hernandez, Case No. WC20-0128-4692, by a vote of 5-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Major Slatin, and Board President Jonasson Rosas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Chief of Staff David Chavez led the flag salute.

HEAR Report from Superintendent
- Wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to our second semester. Yesterday students returned to campuses and many administrators were out across campuses to support and welcome students. Even though the district had many staff members out ill, the district teams were prepared, and all classrooms were covered. I want to share my gratitude to all teachers, administrators, classified staff, and substitute – the entire Fresno Unified Family for making yesterday a great return from winter break.
HEAR Report from Superintendent - continued

- Recognized January as National Mentoring Month. Every January, the Mentoring Office in the Fresno Unified Department of Prevention and Intervention joins with others across the nation in celebration of National Mentoring Month. The goal is to amplify, promote, and raise awareness about the power of relationships through mentoring. This month, the Mentoring Office will be sharing positive videos and stories, highlighting our innovative programs, recruiting mentors, and providing resources and mentor engagement strategies.

- Thanked our Board of Education for considering the adoption of the recommended Inclusion Resolution (item A-3). This resolution is a bold statement that this Board of Education and I value to prioritize inclusive practices. It shows that we are committed to seeing students with education services as first and foremost, general education students. I recognize how impactful language is and Person First Language is a part of this resolution, ensuring that our district will identify people without stating a category as though it is their identity. This resolution sets in stone one of the district’s top priorities, ensuring that all students with specialized services have substantive daily interaction with their fellow students of all abilities.

- Congratulated Trustee Valerie Davis on her upcoming recognition through the Fresno MLK Jr. Unity Committee. Trustee Davis will be awarded the MLK Education Award by the committee this Friday, January 14 at City Hall.

- Congratulated Sequoia Middle School for being named a California School to Watch. Sequoia was recognized in part for improving academic outcomes, its performing arts program, an award winning CTE technology pathway, a Junior Doctors Academy, a strong campus climate and culture, and a rich co-curricular program.

- Shared this week starts our LCAP engagement process with regional in-person and virtual town halls. This week roundtables begin with Bullard High School tomorrow, January 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. All students, staff, parents, and community members are invited to the Community Roundtable Explorations to help our district improve education. Dinner, childcare, and translation will be provided, and all participants will receive free Fresno Chafee Zoo tickets for an adult, a child, and a giraffe feeding. To find more information on the in-person and virtual town halls head to our website at www.fresnounified.org.

- Shared a final reminder that The Fresno Compact is accepting nominations for business-education partnerships through Friday, January 14, 2022. Districts are invited to nominate business partners who have played a significant role in educational activities and program. The online application is now available.

- Shared a great video created by Fresno Unified GSA students focused on safe spaces and top ways our staff can be strong allies for our LGBTQ+ students. I challenge staff to take action on the tips shared by Fresno Unified students and to reach out to the Department of Prevention and Intervention for your own safe space poster.
OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received two requests to address the Board on the Consent Agenda. The individual’s name along with a summary of topic are listed as follows:


On a motion by Board Clerk Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Agenda Items A-6 and A-12, which were pulled for further discussion, was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Major Satic, and President Jonasson Rosas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas. 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.

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.

A-3, ADOPT Resolution in Endorsing Inclusive Education Practices for Every Student in Fresno Unified School District
ADOPTED as recommended, this resolution endorses inclusive school hallmark practices for every student in Fresno Unified School District.

A-4, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meetings
APPROVED as recommended, draft minutes for the November 03, and November 17, 2021, Regular Board Meetings.

A-5, APPROVE Agreement with Camp Oakhurst
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Camp Oakhurst Outdoor School who provides sixth-grade students with the opportunity to gain hands-on science instruction, while building positive relationships with their peers, teachers, and adults.
A. CONSENT AGENDA- continued

A-6,  APPROVE Agreement with Professor & Lawyer Mark T. Harris
       APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Professor and Lawyer Mark
       T. Harris for the purpose of providing Social Justice Lecture Series sessions for
       district staff.

       For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda
       Item A-6. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity on who would be ensuring
       these sessions are conducted in a safe and considerate manner. Lisa Nichols,
       Bryan Wells, Kim Mecum, and Superintendent Dr. Nelson were available to
       provide clarity.

       On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares,
       Agenda Item A-6 was approved by a vote of 5-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board
       Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Major Slatic, and President Jonasson Rosas.
       ABSENT: Board Member Thomas. The Trustee Area 5 is vacant.

A-7,  APPROVE Agreement with Dr. Hueling Lee
       APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Dr. Hueling Lee to assist with
       the implementation of the criteria for the Seal of Civic Engagement.

A-8,  APPROVE Agreement for External Audit Services
       APPROVED as recommended, a renewal of the external auditing services
       agreement with Crowe LLP was approved for 2021/22 through 2025/26.

A-9,  APPROVE Addendum to Service Agreement with Deaf and Hard of Hearing
       Service Center
       APPROVED as recommended, an addendum with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
       Service Center (DHHSC) in the amount of $513,000.

A-10, APPROVE 2021/22 Fresno Unified Career Technical Education Advisory
       Committee Member List
       APPROVED as recommended, a career technical education advisory committee
       to develop recommendations on the program and to provide liaison between the
       district and potential employer (EC 8070).

A-11, RATIFY Agreement with Education Behavior Consultants
       RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with Education Behavior Consultants
       for six Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) to provide direct support to
       elementary students identified as needing intensive Tier III behavior support.
A. CONSENT AGENDA- continued

A-12, Ratify Change Orders
RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the following projects:

- Bid 20-49, Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School, Change Order 5 presented for ratification $299,339

- Bid 21-34, Ventura and 10th Business Campus Site and Tenant Improvements, Buildings C and D South Campus site, Change Order 3 presented for ratification (credit) $946,603 Tenant Improvements, Change Order 3 presented for ratification $667,427

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-12. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity on change order number 3 at the Farber Campus. Requested clarity on the reason for change order and the staff’s plan for addressing the change. Chief Operations Officer Karin Temple was available to provide clarity.

For the record, Board Member Cazares motioned to approve Agenda Item A-12, seconded by Board Member Davis.

Before the vote took place, Board Members continued with comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-12. A summary is as follows: Requested information on when departments will move to the campus. Requested clarity on the use of the name Ventura and 10th, if it is referring to the Farber Center. Chief Operations Officer Karin Temple was available to provide clarity.

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

A-13, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion
RATIFIED as recommended, notices of completion for the following projects, which have been completed according to plans and specifications.

- Bid 20-36 Section A, Hoover High School Shade Structure and Site Improvements

- Bid 20-36 Section B, Sunnyside High School Shade Structure and Site Improvements

- Bid 21-04, McLane High School New CTE Digital Media Arts Lab and ROTC Classroom
A. CONSENT AGENDA- continued

- Bid 21-05, Hoover High School CTE Digital Media Arts Classroom Improvements
- Bid 21-47 Section A, Burroughs Elementary School Energy Management System Replacement

A-14, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2021 through October 31, 2021 RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2021 through October 31, 2021.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Nancy Lind: Jackson elementary school lunch.
2. Erin Schuurman: Governor’s mandate.
3. Terry Davis: Fresno High Aquatics.
6. Angelana Avila: Opposition to vaccines.
7. Maria Salazar: Fresno High Aquatics.
10. Mercedes Ruiz Not present.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-15, HOLD Public Hearing Regarding the Redistricting of Trustee Areas within Fresno Unified and ADOPT Proposed Trustee Area Map

Board President Jonasson Rosas OPENED the Public Hearing.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Agenda Item B-15

For the record, the Board received five requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-15. The individual’s name along with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Andrew Fabela: Supports Angeles de la Vivienda Map.
2. Imelda Cruz: Supports Angeles de la Vivienda Map.
B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA - continued


For the Record Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-15. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity for definitions on the presentation about pairs of Trustees and no pairs of Trustees. Acknowledged the community coming out and showing their support and interest. Mr. Skinnell was available to provide clarity.

For the record Board Clerk Islas motioned to approve Agenda Item B-15 Map Angeles de la Vivienda.

For the record, before a second was received, Board Members continued with comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-15. A summary is as follows: Commented the Angeles de la Vivienda map creates cleaner boundaries and aligns better with feeder and voter areas.

For the record, Board President Jonasson Rosas seconded the motion to approve Agenda Item B-15 Map Angeles de la Vivienda.

Before the vote took place, Board Members continued with comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-15. A summary is as follows: Acknowledged the parents of Area 6 for coming out to support the district and community. Showed support of map Angeles de la Vivienda, hesitant about map of District 3 with its drastic changes but still supportive. Showed support of map Angeles de la Vivienda and how clean it looks. Commented the Angeles de la Vivienda map will better help families that are without a method of transportation to look at this map and find bus lines without confusion. Thanked team for going over data, researching what was best for the community, and drafting the new maps. Showed support of map Angeles de la Vivienda. Praised the cleaner looking map. Expressed gratitude that it will be easier to explain district boundaries. Thanked Mr. Pedro Navarro Cruz from the community in helping to create a better map. Commented we have many resources and our community pulled together to help the district draft a new map. Requested clarity on Area 3 being brought up to Shaw near Clovis. Mr. Skinnell and Superintendent Dr. Nelson were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Clerk Islas, seconded by Board President Jonasson Rosas, Agenda Item B-15 Map Angeles de la Vivienda was approved by a vote of 5-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Major Slatin, and President Jonasson Rosas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas. The Trustee Area 5 seat is vacant.

Board President Jonasson Rosas CLOSED the Public Hearing.
B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA - continued

B-16, PRESENT and DISCUSS 2020/21 Bond Annual Report

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Agenda Item B-16
For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-16.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of two items as follows:

C-17, RECEIVE Proposed Academic Calendars for 2022/23 and 2023/24
C-18, RECEIVE 2020/21 School Facility Fee Public Information Report

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Member Major Slatic: Requested clarity and a board communication regarding weekly COVID testing at school sites. Requested the Board to consider campus safety and at next board meeting, with a roll call vote, agenized re-funding of School Neighborhood Resource Officers on middle school campuses.

Board Clerk Islas: Requested to have information provided in the board script outlining the process of Unscheduled Oral Communications. Requested a board communication be provided regarding the Fresno High School Aquatics program issue. Agreed with Trustee Major Static’s earlier comment, no one can learn in an antagonistic environment. Expressed the need to create an opportunity to have uncomfortable conversations to dismantle racism, oppression, and things that continue to subjugate people in classes within our community. The cultural proficiency trainings could have been handled better. Yet, to reject having cultural proficiency conversations is not beneficial. Cautioned Major Satic to be more sensitive about how he addresses individuals. Referring to people’s melanin can be a sensitive topic and is not a way to refer to individuals. Stated individuals should be honored for their culture and ethnicity. Mentioned the district is not mandating vaccines but giving the community an option; parents have full consent. Shared a few COVID statistics. Commented everyone should have a choice. Clarified for the record, the district is not mandating or demanding COVID vaccinations. It is erroneous to say the district is forcing anyone.

Member Davis: Requested staff to connect with the Chief of Police regarding Student Neighborhood Resource Officers. Agreed with Clerk Islas’ request pertaining to Unscheduled Oral Communications. Shared information regarding the first LCAP meeting at Bullard High School and expressed appreciation for the district’s partnership with the Fresno Chafee Zoo. Requested clarity as to meeting format.
BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION - continued

Member Cazares: Explained personnel issues are not open for public discussion by the Board and shared the Fresno High School aquatics concern is a personnel issue. Assured the community the Board is looking into the concern. Commented the Board will continue to follow up with Superintendent Dr. Nelson to ensure students know they are being heard. Commented on negative feedback she received when the district ran out of COVID tests. Stated the COVID tests were meant for students, not parents, teachers, or staff. Stated it would behoove the district to explain why tests were provided as they were. Requested Superintendent Dr. Nelson to follow up with staff in addressing these issues. Commented she has received concerns from staff regarding the lack of availability of personal protection equipment (PPE). Ensured staff and the community the district has an adequate amount of PPE. Shared information on how to request PPE and mentioned the district ordered KN95 masks and how to have them delivered to the school site. Shared information regarding an opportunity for students to become pilots. Commented on the opportunity of SNRO’s returning to campuses, and agreed it is a worthwhile discussion. Commented if it should be a conversation to hold at a board workshop. Commented on feedback received when meeting with staff, administration, and counselors at Hoover on how to combine department resources to utilize now to address issues of violence.

Board President Jonasson Rosas: Concurred with colleagues regarding PPE, COVID tests, and the Fresno High aquatics situation. Requested staff to make it abundantly clear the Board is not ignoring the community. Thanked staff for the January 07, 2022 Board Communication, T1-Eliminating Paper Processes; requested the Board be provided information on more ways to go digital. Commented on request she received regarding the Fresno Adult Schools lease with Manchester Center and requested staff provide information regarding the alternative site.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Jonasson Rosas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:19 p.m.