



BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
2309 TULARE STREET
BOARD ROOM, 2nd FLOOR
FRESNO, CA 93721
board.fresnounified.org

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Fresno, California
August 24, 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 August 24, 2022 there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatik, Thomas, and Board President Jonasson Rosas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present.

Board President Jonasson Rosas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:38 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.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 5:45 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:00 p.m.

Board President Jonasson Rosas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Clerk Islas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in Closed Session to lateral Erica Piedra to Director at English Learner Services, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatik, Thomas and Board President Jonasson Rosas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leslie Loewen led the Flag Salute.

ACKNOWLEDGE the 2022/23 Student Advisory Board Representatives

The Board and Superintendent acknowledged the 2022/23 Student Advisory Board Representatives.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- We are on day eight of school for the 2022/23 school year and I couldn't be happier with our opening of schools this year. I've been out to a lot of campuses and departments over the last week and a half, and everywhere I go people are "walking the calm walk". There's that perfect mix of excitement and calm, and staff everywhere are telling me this school year is already going great. Now in my 32nd year of education, I can confidently say this is one of the best opening of schools I've been a part of. To start the school year off this well, it took an incredible amount of work behind the scenes. Every single staff member has poured focus into this opening and folks partnered across schools, regions, and departments to make our start as seamless as possible. Thank you to our Fresno Unified Family for bringing our students back to campuses with so much joy, love, and care!
- Not only have we been busy with our opening of schools, but we've also had much to celebrate as well! First, we were honored to have the Governor and First Partner join us at McLane High School to unveil their Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health plan. They chose to announce this \$4.7 billion investment in Fresno Unified as they see our district as a model for other school districts across the state. Over the last decade we've grown our Department of Prevention and Intervention from approximately 50 staff to over 200 staff and from a \$5 million annual budget to a \$38 million budget this year. We have the only 24/7 on-call mental health response team, that is literally saving students' lives and our district not only serves our students but also our staff and our students' families social emotional needs. We're proud to serve as a model and so grateful to McLane for hosting and representing our district so well. Special shoutout to McLane senior, Aliyah Barajas, who courageously shared her own story of self-harm at the visit and brought many of us to tears. A clear and honest reminder of why we have invested in our students' social emotional and mental health needs.
- This week we celebrated the grand opening of Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School! This state-of-the-art school represents a \$40 million investment in Southeast Fresno, providing our students and the community with a wall-to-wall STEAM school, beautiful green space and dedicated music rooms. The school also honors our valley's own US Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera, who is also an educator and activist. When Juan Felipe was in school in the 50s, he recalls being physically punished for speaking Spanish at school and we're incredibly proud that the school that carries his name celebrates multilingualism through a Spanish dual immersion program starting in early learning. Thank you to our taxpayers for continually passing our bond measures, our facilities and construction teams, Darden Architects, Davis Moreno Construction, and everyone who has helped to make this school a reality.
- Major shoutout to our A4 team and champions for launching our Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) Step Up Program! This program created a partnership between Fresno Unified and Benedict college. This program brings the opportunity for students at three of our comprehensive high schools to be dually enrolled at their high school and Benedict College, where our students will participate in live, virtual college courses with Benedict professors. Students will

HEAR Report from Superintendent – continued

be able to earn a full semester's worth of transferable credit as they build their college-goer identity and explore the amazing benefits of an HBCU.

- Coming up, we're excited to celebrate our newly renamed H. Roger Tatarian Elementary School on September 7, 2022! We will be celebrating and honoring Roger's legacy as a renowned Armenian American writer and educator from the valley and the rich Armenian history and culture we have here in Fresno. We're also excited that our own Deputy Superintendent, Misty Her, was named as one of Marjaree Mason Center's Top 10 Professional Women of 2022. We look forward to celebrating her recognition in October!
- Lastly, I'd like to share a quick video with you sharing the joy and excitement from the start of this amazing school year!

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 Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Islas, the Consent Agenda, apart from Agenda Items A-7, A-8, A-9, and A-10, which were pulled by Board Members for further discussion, was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, Thomas, and President Jonasson Rosas.

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. Pulled Consent Agenda Items will be considered for approval after the Conference/Discussion 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, Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the August 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

A-3, **APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting**

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the August 10, 2022 Regular Board meeting.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

- A-4, ADOPT Resolution for Certifying Course-Based Independent Study**
ADOPTED as recommended, a resolution for certifying course-based independent study.
- A-5, APPROVE Hiring Noncredentialed Consultants for the 2022/23 School Year Per California Education Code 58803**
APPROVED as recommended, a request to hire noncredentialed consultants who possess unique skills from business, performing arts and postsecondary institutions to provide instruction to students.
- A-6, APPROVE Agreement with Another Level Training Academy**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Another Level Training Academy.
- A-7, APPROVE Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Finalsite**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Finalsite—an award-winning website design, software, and hosting service for schools—to overhaul the district website and all the individual school websites within in the district.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-7. A summary is as follows: Highlighted good work and shared parents will be pleased with a new user-friendly website.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Islas, Agenda Item A-7 was approved by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Jonasson Rosas.

- A-8, APPROVE Amended Inter Jurisdictional Exchange Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and State Center Community College District**
APPROVED as recommended, an amended Inter Jurisdictional Exchange Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and State Center Community College District from July 2022 Bundled contacts.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-8. A summary is as follows: Requested to hear more pertaining to inter jurisdictional agreements and if applicable in other areas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board President Jonasson Rosas, Agenda Item A-8 was approved by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Jonasson Rosas.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

A-9, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies

APPROVED as recommended, proposed revisions for four Board Policies (BP) and one Exhibit (E) as follows: BP 1400 Relations Between Other Governmental/Agencies and The Schools; BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention; BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency; and E 9270 Conflict of Interest – Statement of Economic Form 700.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-9. A summary is as follows: Recognized Ms. Plascencia's role in position of government relations administrator. Shared importance of School Liaison Act Committee and the struggle to get a meeting scheduled with the city. Shared, Board Policy 1400 Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools solidifies the district's commitment to work with other governmental agencies. Shared areas of needed strength and stronger advocacy such as homelessness and safe routes to school and infrastructure. Requested more information be included on the role the district plays on behalf of our students. Commented on BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention, mentioned when reviewing the website information in Spanish was not available, and asked how non-English speaking families receive information. Commented on BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency. Pointed out Critical Race Theory is not a requirement for graduation. Celebrated the incorporation of Ethnic Studies. Asked how core requirements are being communicated to non-English speaking families. Requested staff to be clear in messaging to parents the difference between Critical Race Theory and Ethnic Studies. Requested clarity as to if updates to the Form 700 are automatically shared between Fresno County and the district. Executive Director Teresa Plascencia, Chief of Staff Ambra O'Connor and Instructional Superintendent Carlos Castillo, and Chief Financial Officer Santino Danisi were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Clerk Islas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item A-9 was approved by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatik, Thomas, and Board President Jonasson Rosas.

A-10, APPROVE and RATIFY Retiree Contracts for Fresno Adult School Teachers for the 2022/23 Academic School Year

APPROVED and RATIFIED as recommended, four retiree contracts for Fresno Adult School (FAS) teachers needed for the Summer/Fall of 2022 classes. Dr.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-10. A summary is as follows: Thanked individuals coming back from retirement to serve and support students. Commended Debra Schmidt for her service of 24 years

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item A-10 was approved by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, and Thomas. ABSENT: Board President Jonasson Rosas.

A-11, RATIFY Amended Agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Early Stars

RATIFIED as recommended, an amendment to an agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Fresno County Early Stars.

A-12, RATIFY David and Lucile Packard Foundation Grant

RATIFIED as recommended, a request for ratification of a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation from July 01, 2022, through June 30, 2025.

A-13, RATIFY Change Orders

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

Bid 20-49 Juan Felipe Herrera New Elementary School
Change Order 10 presented for ratification: \$109,632
Change Order 11 presented for ratification: \$53,248

Bid 21-42 Section A, Bullard High School Athletic Field Improvements
Change Order 5 presented for ratification: \$9,951

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-14, DISCUSS and ACKNOWLEDGE Receipt of the 2022-2025 Initial Successor Proposal from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers to the Fresno Unified School District

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-14.

B-15, DISCUSS and ADOPT the Successor Contract Proposal for 2022-2025 from the Fresno Unified School District to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-15.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA - continued

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, Agenda Item B-15 was adopted by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Jonasson Rosas.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of one item as follows:

C-16, RECEIVE the Fresno Unified School District Fourth Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2021/22

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received six (6) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name along with a summary of topic is listed as follows:

1. Karin Steed: Congratulated the Board for acquiring funding to support A4 and the Master Plan for Mental Health.
2. Vanushi Katchadurian: Provided the Board an invitation to the Fresno County Historical Museum to view artwork of Varaz Samuelian.
3. Marcos Pacheco: Shared information regarding Fresno High School's Golf Tournament.
4. Mia Pacheco: Shared about a play she will be in and how much she likes her teacher.
5. Matthew Pacheco: Yielded his time to the next speaker.
6. Marycella Pacheco: Shared her concern regarding an incident at Hamilton K-8 school.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Jonasson Rosas ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:06 p.m.