



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
2309 TULARE STREET  
BOARD ROOM, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
FRESNO, CA 93721  
[board.fresnounified.org](http://board.fresnounified.org)

## **MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

**Fresno, California**  
**September 14, 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 September 14, 2022, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatc, 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 4:30 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 6:10 p.m.

Board President Jonasson Rosas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:17 p.m.

### **Reporting Out of Closed Session**

- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in Closed Session to promote May Her to Principal II at Wolters Elementary, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatc, Thomas and Board President Jonasson Rosas.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Natasha Baker led the Flag Salute.

### **HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives**

The Board recognized student board members and alternates for the 2022/23 school year and heard comments/reports from Student Board Representatives from Hoover High School.

## HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Superintendent recognized the hoax active shooter report earlier this afternoon at Bullard High School. An external phone call was made to the Fresno Police Department shortly after 12:00 p.m. today reporting an active shooter at Bullard High School – the caller didn't identify themselves and did not answer the phone when Fresno Police Department tried to call them back. Fresno Police Department responded immediately to Bullard as did our Safety and Emergency Response team and the school was put on lockdown. Gibson was also placed on lockdown as a precaution. Fresno Police Department was able to quickly ascertain there was no active shooter and posted to social media and contacted local media around 12:30pm to share that information, our team immediately reposted that information. Even though there was no imminent threat of activity on campus, Fresno Police Department completed their sweep of Bullard, going classroom to classroom to ensure the entire campus was safe before lifting the lockdown by 1pm. Parents received messaging from the school when lockdown was initiated and when the lockdown was lifted. We're so grateful for Fresno Police Department's quick and courageous response – there was no hesitation on the behalf of officers to get on campus and protect our students and staff. We're also incredibly relieved that this was a fake report and there was no actual danger to our campus. I stood with Chief Balderrama and DA Smittcamp this afternoon to address the media, reminding our entire community that these fake threats are unacceptable, will be investigated, and will be prosecuted. I must remind all our students and community that this is not funny or ever to be taken as a joke – parents, students, and staff were terrified for their lives this afternoon. None of that is funny and it will not be tolerated in our district.
- Second, I need to also acknowledge our press conference last week with Fresno Police Department to release information and video of a former principal aggressively shoving down one of our students at Wolters Elementary School in June. Let me be VERY clear, there is absolutely NO excuse for this appalling behavior and this conduct is absolutely not tolerated at Fresno Unified. The district does not tolerate this kind of conduct at any time and has no interest in retaining any employee who has engaged in such harmful behavior. Upon becoming aware of the altercation, our team immediately placed the employee on leave, and the following day reported the event to the Fresno Police Department and CPS. After an investigation, our district began the disciplinary process against Mr. Vollhardt, which included reporting our findings to all appropriate state agencies, at which point he resigned from our district.
- I would be remiss to not acknowledge the dynamics of race within this altercation. While there has been no information to lead us to believe this was a racially motivated altercation, we are not blind to the fact that racial dynamics are always present. We also are not blind to the fact that seeing this footage of a white principal aggressively pushing down an African American young boy is going to be triggering and potentially traumatizing, especially for our African American community.

## **HEAR Report from Superintendent – continued**

- To any of our students, families, and staff who are struggling as they process the footage of this disturbing event, please reach out to us for help. Students, please reach out to a trusted adult on campus, families please access our CareSolace supports through our website, and staff please use our EAP supports or reach out to your supervisor or HR for resources.
- It has been a tough couple of weeks, there is no denying that. But I must acknowledge some amazing things that are also happening around the district. This week tickets went on sale for our State of Education Gala happening on October 6th at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. We'll be making our official public launch of the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools and all proceeds will support our scholarship fund. Individual tickets are available for sale online by clicking the link on our homepage at [fresnounified.org](http://fresnounified.org). If you're interested in sponsoring the event, please reach out to Wendy McCulley our Chief of Engagement and External Partnerships.
- Fresno Unified is currently surveying families on important household and income data through our annual Confidential Family Survey or CFS. While this information remains confidential, the results are crucial to determining district and school funding through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Families who participate may also qualify their students for other individual benefits, such as discounts or waivers for SAT, ACT, and AP assessments, discounts on college application fees, Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits, and/or automatic enrollment and a \$500 deposit in a CalKIDS account for future education costs after high school! CFS is distributed electronically for selected families who are eligible. Families who are required to complete this form will be sent family letters and personalized survey links through their preferred form(s) of communication with FUSD (text message, personal email, and/or ATLAS Connect) and their student's email. Your partnership is appreciated. Please complete this online survey by Friday, September 23rd.
- To wrap up, I'd like to share a video of the beautiful celebration held last week to recognize H. Roger Tatarian's renaming and new mascot and branding. Mr. Tatarian, who passed away in 1995, was born in Fresno, attending Jackson Elementary School, Longfellow Junior High, and Roosevelt High School, where he was a top graduate and commencement speaker. He graduated from Fresno State and launched an illustrious career as a newspaper journalist and editor, overseeing United Press International (UPI) news bureaus around the world. Upon retiring from UPI, Mr. Tatarian returned to Fresno to teach a new generation of journalists for 15 years. He is the only person to be named both outstanding alumnus and outstanding professor for Fresno State. Check out this quick video of the celebration.
- Shared Tatarian celebration video.

## **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 Member Davis, the Consent Agenda, apart from Agenda Items A-6, A-7, A-8, A-11, and A15, which were pulled by Board Members for further discussion, was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Thomas, and President Jonasson Rosas. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

**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**, the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the August 24, 2022, Regular Board Meeting.

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

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes for the August 24, 2022, Regular Board Meeting.

### **A-4, APPROVE 2022/23 Spring Release Consolidated Application to the California Department of Education**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a budget summary for the Consolidated Application (Con App).

### **A-5, APPROVE Agreement with Aston Carter Workforce Solutions for the Development of Employee Safety Training Videos**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement for Aston Carter for the development of online employee safety trainings focused on lockdowns, fire, earthquakes, and active assailant response protocols.

### **A-6, APPROVE Agreement with Hanover Research**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a three-year agreement with Hanover Research (Hanover) in the amount of \$247,270.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-6. A summary is as follows: Inquired why the agreement is for three years.

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued**

Inquired if this agreement is part of the Council of the Great City Schools oversight. Manager Luis Ramirez and Superintendent Dr. Nelson were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item A-6, was approved by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, Thomas, and President Jonasson Rosas.

### **A-7, APPROVE Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Kenneth N. Sawatsky**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Kenneth N. Sawatsky, from September 19, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Requested clarity as to the variety of media services offered in the agreement and how best to communicate to families. Requested clarity as to if the item was in support of teachers. Chief Academic Officer Dr. Baker was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Items 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 President Jonasson Rosas.

### **A-8, APPROVE Agreement with Performance Fact, Inc.**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Performance Fact, Inc. in the amount of \$21,280.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-8. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to the work of the Performance Fact, Inc. agreement. Executive Director Mitchell was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, 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 President Jonasson Rosas.

### **A-9, APPROVE Agreement with The Pi Shop Product Incubator**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement to fund the program and work-based learning experiences provided by The Pi Shop Product Incubator for the 2022/23 academic school year at Patiño High School.

**A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued**

**A-10, APPROVE Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and PPL Studio, LLC**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement between Fresno Unified School District and PPL Studio, LLC from September 19, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

**A-11, RATIFY Agreement with The New Teacher Project for the Good 2 Great Summer Math Academy**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with The New Teacher Project for the Good 2 Great Summer Math Academy.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-11. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to how many teachers attended the academy and how success was measured. Requested clarity as to why so few teachers attended, and why attendance was not mandated. Requested clarity as to how data will be provided to Board Members. Requested clarity as to metrics used to measure success. Instructional Superintendent Castillo was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item A-11, was approved by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, Thomas, and President Jonasson Rosas.

**A-12, RATIFY Change Orders**

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

Bid 21-11, Edison High School Gymnasium Addition  
Change Order 11 presented for ratification \$10,706

Bid 21-34, Ventura and 10th South Campus Site and Tenant Improvements for Buildings C and D  
South Campus Site, Change Order 6 presented for ratification \$ - 90,321  
Tenant Improvements, Change Order 6 presented for ratification \$71,491

Bid 21-40, Hoover High School Event Center HVAC and Roof Replacement  
Change Order 1 presented for ratification \$91,838

Bid 21-42 Section A, Bullard High School Athletic Field Improvements  
Change Order 6 presented for ratification \$2,470

**A-13, RATIFY the Filing of a Notice of Completion**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, a Notice of Completion for the following project, which has been completed according to plans and specifications.

**A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued**

Bid 20-49, Juan Felipe Herrera New Elementary School

**A-14, RATIFY Purchase Orders from June 01, 2022, through June 30, 2022 – Primary Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from June 01, 2022, through June 30, 2022.

**A-15, RATIFY Purchase Orders from June 01, 2022, through June 30, 2022 – Supplemental Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from June 01, 2022, through June 30, 2022.

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

Agenda Item A-15 on tonight’s consent agenda contains purchase orders with the California State University, Fresno. I am employed by Fresno State, I did not participate in the contracts making these purchase orders, but because of my employment with Fresno State I have a remote financial interest in those contracts. Therefore, in the interest of full transparency I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to board bylaw 9270.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, Agenda Item A15, was approved by a vote of 6-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Major Slatic, Thomas, and President Jonasson Rosas. ABSTENTION: Board Member Levine.

**B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**B-16, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2021/22 Unaudited Actual Financial Report, 2021/22 Year-End Budget Revision and 2022/23 Gann Limit**

**OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

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

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-16. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity to information presented pertaining to Workers’ Compensation and asked why there was a decrease and what caused the decrease. Requested clarity as to if there was fluctuation in the property tax income. Requested clarity as to if there is direction as to where the income is used or if the district has autonomy to dedicate the resources. Requested clarity as to if district expenses on actuaries is rolled into expenses for

## **B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA - continued**

consultants or if there are two separate line items. Requested clarity as to how many actuarial firms are used by the district. Requested a board communication be provided to include three (3) to five (5) years, ideally five (5) years, of all district expenses for work related to actuaries. Requested clarity to information presented pertaining to other post-employment benefits reserve and why there was a decrease and what caused the decrease. Recommended the district stay on a course to maintain gains rather than losses. Requested clarity as to if the district has seen Workers' Compensation claims pertaining to long-term COVID. Commented on the school sites' abilities to fund raise may be greater than others. Chief Financial Officer Danisi was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item B-16, was approved by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Levine, Major Slatic, Thomas, and President Jonasson Rosas.

**B-17, OPPOR' Negotia** **Item pulled from agenda by Staff** **of the 2022/23**  
**District and California School Employees Association, Chapter 143** **Unified School**

**B-18, PRESENT and DISCUSS Proposed Reorganization of Human Resources**

### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-18.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-18. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to philosophy used pertaining to span of control when creating reorganization plan. Asked, hypothetically, how long to fill a vacant position listed on reorganization chart. Requested clarity as to estimated time until plan is fully implemented. Requested clarity as to how long to fill a vacant teacher position. Commented it should not take 39 days to fill a teacher position. Requested clarity as to what qualifies as an open position and if there is a fast lane created to hire. Requested staff to not lose sight of qualitative work and asked how the district is aligning values to investments. Commented on the need to grow the district workforce and how program expansion is stifled when there is a lack of a qualified workforce. Commented on the importance of countering the perception that a person can do badly and still stay in the district. Important to have a system in place to identify and remove poor performers at every level from the system. Commented on the need for screening measures to combat issues the district is facing. Recommended staff to add additional analyst or data specialist positions in performance, evaluation, and retention. Requested clarity as to cost listed on slides nine (9) and ten (10). Chief of Human Resources/Labor Relations Chavez was available to provide clarity.

### **C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**

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

**C-19, RECEIVE Results of Issuance and Sale of the General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2020, (Measure M), Series B Bonds**

**C-20, RECEIVE Constituent Services Quarterly Reporting**

**C-21, RECEIVE Call for Appointments to the California School Boards Associations' Delegate Assembly**

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

For the record, the Board received eight (8) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name along with a summary of topic is listed as follows:

1. Eric Rollins: Commented on concerns regarding grading with equity.
2. Jim Barr: Not present when called to the podium.
3. Ruben: Commented regarding incident at Wolters. Commented on concerns pertaining to system failures and requested the Board to look at what student safety looks like.
4. Janet Corza-Lara: Commented on active shooter drills and bells at school sites are confusing for students. Commented on the importance of focusing on prevention.
5. Vanoush Khachatryan: Thanked those who attended the Roger H. Tatarian school naming ceremony. Suggested a district foundation partnering with community partners which would champion student engagement within the community.
6. Monica Harrison Snowden: Commended Trustee Levine's father for his contribution as a psychologist. Shared concern pertaining to incident at Wolter's. Shared concern of how she sees Fresno and Fresno Unified. Commented on more work need toward prevention.
7. Mia Pacheco: Shared her experience moving to another classroom when AC was down in her classroom. Invited Trustee Thomas to a play at her school. Thanked Trustee Major Slatic for his work and provided him a bag of Taki's.
8. Marycela Pacheco: Ceded time to Trustee Major Slatic

For the record, Trustee Major Slatic provided a speaker card at the beginning of the board meeting; however, when Mrs. Pacheco arrived, he pulled his speaker card. Thus, his time to speak was three (3) minutes rather than six (6).

Trustee Major Slatic commended the Fresno Police Department on the handling of an incident at Bullard. Commented they handled the incident flawlessly. Additionally, commented on the perimeter of the campus and the need for a new fence.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Jonasson Rosas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:20 p.m.