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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – NOVEMBER 10, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Superintendent, Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT – Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

S-1 Robert G. Nelson Superintendent Calendar Highlights

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Santino Danisi, Chief Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for
November 04, 2022

INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Dr. Natasha Baker, Chief Officer

ID-1 Carlos Castillo Parent Curricular Concern
ID-2 Ed Gomes The Wallace Foundation Equity Centered
Pipeline Initiative

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Robert G. Nelson, Superintendent
Cabinet Approval:

Date: November 10, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Met with Chancellor Goldsmith, State Center Community College District, to discuss potential partnership with HBCUs and expansion of Dual Enrollment
- Met with Executive Cabinet Team
- Participated in focus group as part of assessment for Cradle to Career Fresno County facilitated by StriveTogether
- Attended CART Board Meeting
- Met with the Educational Advancement Committee regarding potential Math program for Fresno Unified Students
- Held Community School Steering Committee Meeting
- Met with Fresno Teachers Association Leadership Team

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 11/10/2022

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: November 10, 2022

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Executive Officer

Phone Number: 457-3907

Cabinet Approval:




Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for November 04, 2022

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues. The SSC Weekly Update for November 04, 2022 is attached and includes the following articles:

- PPIC Releases October 2022 Statewide Survey – October 28, 2022
- How Hollywood Got Behind California's Prop. 28 – November 02, 2022
- Gavin Newsom's Reelection Campaign Looks More Like a Run for President – October 25, 2022

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 11/10/2020



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www.sscal.com

DATE: November 4, 2022

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

2022 Midterm Election Preview

This upcoming Tuesday, November 8, 2022, is the midterm General Election. While most eyes will be on the national congressional races that will determine whether Democrats or Republicans will control the House of Representatives and the Senate, we wanted to use this week's *Sacramento Update* to explain what California voters will see on their ballots come Tuesday.

All 80 seats that make up the state Assembly as well as half (20) of the Senate seats will be decided by the voters next week. Democrats are looking to retain their supermajority status in both houses. At the end of the recent 2021-22 legislative session, the state Senate consisted of 31 Democrats and 9 Republicans, while the Assembly consisted of 60 Democrats, 19 Republicans, and 1 independent. This means that Democrats can afford to lose 4 seats in the Senate and 6 seats in the Assembly and still retain their supermajority status in both chambers.

All of the statewide offices, including Governor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), Secretary of State, and Attorney General will also be on the ballot. Republicans are looking to win their first statewide office election since 2006, when former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger won reelection for his first and only full term as California's chief executive. The latest Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) [poll](#) shows that Governor Gavin Newsom is poised to sail to reelection with a commanding 19-point lead over his Republican challenger Senator Brian Dahle (R-Bieber). However, Republicans likely view the Attorney General and State Controller races as their best shot to win a statewide office in 16 years, as both races are expected to be closer than others. The nonpartisan SSPI race will also likely be a close contest, with incumbent Tony Thurmond looking to fend off challenger Lance Christensen.

Voters will also decide the fate of the following seven ballot propositions, which require a simple majority (50% + 1) to pass:

- **Proposition 1:** This measure would prohibit the state from interfering with or denying an individual's reproductive freedom, which is defined to include a right to an abortion and a right to contraceptives

- **Proposition 26:** This proposition would legalize sports betting at American Indian gaming casinos and licensed racetracks in California
- **Proposition 27:** This measure would legalize online and mobile sports betting for those 21 years of age or older
- **Proposition 28:** This proposition would provide additional funding outside of Proposition 98 each year for arts and music education in all K-12 public schools (including charter schools) beginning with the 2023-24 fiscal year
- **Proposition 29:** This measure would require dialysis clinics to have at least one physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant while patients are being treated
- **Proposition 30:** This proposition would increase the tax on personal income above \$2 million by 1.75% and dedicate the revenue to zero-emission vehicle subsidies and infrastructure as well as wildfire suppression and prevention programs
- **Proposition 31:** This referendum would uphold the contested legislation, Senate Bill 793 (Hill, Statutes of 2020), which would effectively ban the sale of flavored tobacco products

The latest PPIC polling suggests that both of the gambling propositions appear to be headed for defeat, with 57% of likely voters indicating their intent to vote no on Proposition 26, while 67% said they plan to vote no on Proposition 27. The poll also shows that Proposition 30, which is opposed by Governor Newsom, but supported by the California Democratic Party, also appears headed for defeat as a majority (52%) of likely voters say they plan to vote against the measure. Proposition 29 is likely to fail as well. Voters have overwhelmingly rejected similar statewide measures in 2018 and 2020, with 60% of voters voting no on the 2018 measure and 63% of voters rejecting the 2020 proposition.

PPIC's September [poll](#) shows that Proposition 1 is likely to sail to passage as 69% of likely voters said they plan on voting for the measure. Proposition 31 is also likely to be approved by voters, as a September [poll](#) from the Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies found that 57% of likely voters support the measure.

Perhaps the most mysterious outcome will be the lone education measure, Proposition 28. No polling has been released on this measure. However, there is only one organization on record that opposes the proposition, and there has not been any money contributed to defeating it, which signals that the measure has a good chance of being approved by voters.

We will provide a post-mortem on the election results in next week's Update. Stay tuned.

Leilani Aguinaldo

PPIC Releases October 2022 Statewide Survey

By Kyle Hyland
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
October 28, 2022

With less than two weeks to go before the 2022 Midterm Elections, the release of the Public Policy Institute of California's (PPIC) latest monthly survey provides a timely glimpse into public perception about some of the important issues on the ballot, including polling for the Gubernatorial race, ballot propositions, and approval ratings.

According to the latest survey, Democratic incumbent Governor Gavin Newsom holds a commanding 19-point advantage (55% to 36%) among likely voters over Republican challenger Senator Brian Dahle (R-Bieber). Unsurprisingly, 91% of likely voters who are Democrat indicate they plan to vote for Governor Newsom, while 86% of likely Republican voters say they will back Senator Dahle. Governor Newsom also enjoys a 10-point advantage (47% to 37%) among likely voters who identify as independent, which, when combined with the fact that registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans in the state by a near 2:1 margin, shows why the Governor is poised to sail to reelection.

The survey also revealed new approval ratings for the Governor, the California State Legislature, President Joe Biden, and the two Senators that represent California in the U.S. Senate. The Governor enjoys a 52% approval rating among likely voters while the Democratically controlled Legislature is underwater at 43%. President Biden also enjoys a 52% approval rating among likely California voters while Senators Padilla and Feinstein sit at 48% and 41%, respectfully.

The PPIC also asked respondents about how they would vote on three statewide initiatives that will appear before voters on the ballot: Propositions 26, 27, and 30. Both of the gambling propositions appear to be headed for defeat as 57% of likely voters say they plan to vote no on Proposition 26, and 67% said they plan to vote no on Proposition 27. Proposition 26 would legalize sports betting at American Indian gaming casinos and licensed racetracks in California, while Proposition 27 would legalize online and mobile sports betting for those 21 years of age or older.

Proposition 30, which is opposed by Governor Newsom but supported by the California Democratic Party, also appears headed for defeat as a majority (52%) of likely voters say they plan to vote against the measure. Proposition 30 would increase the tax on personal income above \$2 million by 1.75% and dedicate the revenue from the measure to zero-emission vehicle subsidies and infrastructure as well as wildfire suppression and prevention programs. Governor Newsom is on record describing Proposition 30 as "a special interest carve-out" and "a cynical scheme devised by a single corporation to funnel state income tax revenue to their company." Another reason the Governor may be opposing the measure is fear that it may push more wealthy Californians to leave the state, which could lead to less tax revenues in the state's coffers.

There was no polling done on Proposition 28, which is the measure that would direct approximately \$1 billion annually from the state's General Fund to arts and music education in K-12 public schools (see "[Proposition 28 and the Minimum Guarantee](#)" in the October 2022 *Fiscal Report*). Perhaps one reason that the PPIC didn't ask respondents how they plan on voting for Proposition 28 is that only 2% of likely voters indicated that it was the measure they are most interested in.

The full results of the October PPIC survey can be found [here](#).

Note: There are a number of high-profile celebrities that have publicly come out in support of the measure that would provide arts and music program funding.

How Hollywood Got Behind California's Prop. 28

The ballot initiative would dedicate a percentage of the state general fund for arts and music education in public schools.

By Shawn Hubler
The New York Times
November 2, 2022

Show business in California is stalwart in supporting political causes, but rarely does the industry turn on the wattage for, say, a school-finance ballot initiative.

Enter Proposition 28, which would channel about \$1 billion in additional state money each year into public schools for arts and music instruction. The creators of “Everybody Loves Raymond” chipped in \$1 million to back the proposal. Christina Aguilera recently opened her house for a \$50,000-a-plate fund-raiser. Barbra Streisand, Katy Perry, Graham Nash, Lenny Kravitz, Earth Wind & Fire and Sheryl Lee Ralph of “Abbott Elementary,” among others, have done social media endorsements. The actor Sean Astin has rallied SAG-AFTRA around it. And that’s not to mention the Microsoft billionaire Steve Ballmer and the California State P.T.A.

Currently cruising toward passage, the measure arises from a familiar complaint and a less conventional confluence of forces. Arts and music programs were eviscerated in many California school districts when state funding was slashed during the 2008 financial crisis; in many low-income communities, the programs have yet to recover.

The movement to provide secure financing for them arose from the only-in-Los Angeles contact list of Austin Beutner, a philanthropist and former venture capitalist, who was helming the Los Angeles Unified School District when the pandemic hit.

As classrooms closed in 2020 to curb the spread of Covid-19, hundreds of thousands of Los Angeles school children, most of them from low-income families, were switched to remote instruction. To keep them engaged, Beutner reached out to prominent business and creative people, including his own affluent friends and neighbors, for ideas.

The responses included a Snapchat book club led by Alicia Keys; a course on the Titanic aided by the director James Cameron; art classes created with Illumination Entertainment; and free guitar lessons on thousands of instruments provided by Fender. By the time Beutner stepped down as superintendent in June 2021, the district had started two schools meant to help diversify the region’s entertainment work force, with backing from the music producers Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine and a group of entertainers led by George Clooney.

By winter, the campaign for Proposition 28 was underway, with Beutner as a leading donor and a bandwagon of show-business support. “We pay attention when friends call,” Iovine said.

I caught up with Beutner at Santa Monica High School, where he was moderating a panel discussion with Dre, Iovine, the rapper Lil Baby and their business adviser, Paul Wachter. “I don’t know whose idea it was

to take arts and music out of schools, but I'm a prime example of why it should be here," Dre told the wildly applauding audience.

Here's some of my conversation with Beutner, condensed and edited.

How do you know Lil Baby?

I know people who know people. Actually, he works with Paul Wachter, who I met through Arnold Schwarzenegger, like, 15 years ago. Paul is Arnold's investment adviser. Arnold, I've known for so long, I forget how we met.

Networking seems to have so much to do with this ballot measure. Or was it the pandemic?

The head of Illumination Entertainment, Chris Meledandri, and I went to college together. The board chair of Snap, I've known for 30 years since we lived in New York together. But it's more about the shared history of getting stuff done, among people who have been in the trenches together. Jimmy and Dre I got to know working on their school project. The Fender people helped in schools during the pandemic.

What will Proposition 28 do if it passes?

This provides ongoing funding for arts and music in all schools, without raising taxes. California law requires that about 40 percent of the state budget be set aside for education. This requires that an additional 0.4 percent be set aside to pay for art and music programs out of the general fund.

Doesn't that take a pretty big budget decision away from elected legislators?

Yes, and the ends justify the means. In Sacramento, as a practical matter, those with the loudest voices get their needs met, and families who are struggling to get by unfortunately don't get heard much.

This initiative is a little like the one Schwarzenegger led in 2002 to channel money into after-school programs.

Yeah, we actually learned from that initiative. It helped us get a lot of things right about Prop. 28.

Schwarzenegger was running for governor then. Are you running for something?

No, I am not running for public office. I'm a public-school kid — the son of an immigrant and a public-school teacher — who has lived the American dream. When Prop. 28 passes, it will create a brighter future for six million public-school kids in California. That's my reward.

Shawn Hubler is a California correspondent for The Times and is based in Sacramento.

Note: Governor Newsom's national profile has been soaring in the last several months, leading to speculation that he will be seeking a presidential bid in 2024 or 2028.

Gavin Newsom's Reelection Campaign Looks More Like a Run for President

By Alexei Koseff
CalMatters
October 25, 2022

The prospect of an eventual presidential campaign has trailed Gavin Newsom like a shadow for decades — even before he ever became a politician.

In his senior yearbook at Santa Clara University in 1989, his family published a congratulatory message with an eye to the White House: “Gavinsy by George you did it! The next step the Presidency?”

As Newsom runs this fall for a second term as governor of California, a lot more people are asking that question.

With his re-election on Nov. 8 all but assured by an overwhelmingly Democratic electorate and a massive fundraising advantage, Newsom has practically ignored his Republican opponent for months, turning his attention instead to passing abortion protections, defeating a tax on the wealthiest Californians and picking fights with the GOP governors of Texas and Florida.

His increasingly national profile, which includes an appearance last month at a political festival in Texas and helping to raise money for embattled Democratic candidates across the country, has fanned speculation that Newsom is laying the groundwork to run for president — at some point, anyway — despite his repeated protestations that he has “sub-zero interest” in the job.

It has become a favorite line of attack for state Sen. Brian Dahle, the Republican gubernatorial hopeful fighting an uphill battle against Newsom, who couldn't stop bringing it up during their sole debate on Sunday.

“You all know he's running for president of the United States. It's obvious,” Dahle told reporters following the event. “He's spending money in other states. He's not focused on California, and Californians are suffering. And I think it's going to hurt his campaign.”

While Newsom pledged during the debate to serve the full four-year term if reelected, he brushed past Dahle's swipes and ignored a question about them during a brief gathering with reporters afterwards.

So all that's clear at this point is that Newsom's intentions remain unclear. His political aides and advisors continue to insist that his forceful pronouncements of disinterest in the presidency are entirely genuine, though some privately acknowledge that the notion he could credibly run is becoming more real to him.

And his frequent diversions beyond California's borders in recent months — airing a television ad in Florida in July warning that “freedom is under attack” by Republican leaders, publishing newspaper ads in Texas weeks later to criticize Gov. Greg Abbott's policies on abortion and guns, renting billboards in six conservative states last month to publicize California's new government-funded abortion access website —

have begun to catch the attention of party activists and political consultants whose support Newsom would need to build out a national campaign.

Bob Shrum, director of the USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future, said that Newsom has emerged as a national leader for Democrats, positioning himself well should he ultimately want to run for president.

“You don’t build a brand overnight. You build it over time,” said Shrum, a veteran adviser of numerous presidential campaigns, including Democratic nominees Al Gore in 2000 and John Kerry in 2004. “You can’t time any of this perfectly, because you can’t know what the future is going to bring. So when you have an opportunity to assert a degree of national leadership, then you assert it.”

A campaign behind the campaign

Of course, Newsom still has another gubernatorial election to win first.

But running now for the third time in four years, Newsom is barely breaking a sweat, displaying little concern for his chances of holding onto the governor’s office for a second term. Since the June primary, when he received 56% of the vote, Newsom has hardly even acknowledged Dahle outside of their Sunday debate, a low-wattage affair that aired on the radio opposite NFL football.

A year after he decisively defeated a recall attempt by more than 20 percentage points, the same margin by which he was first elected in 2018, polls show Newsom cruising to another easy victory in November. A survey released earlier this month by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies found Newsom leading Dahle 53% to 32% among likely voters.

So the governor’s attention and campaign resources have, perhaps understandably, been elsewhere.

Newsom went on TV in September as the face of the opposition to Proposition 30, an initiative that would tax income above \$2 million to fund electric vehicle incentives and infrastructure. He also recently paid for an ad promoting Proposition 1, a measure to add a guaranteed right to abortion into the state constitution.

Mostly, Newsom seems far more engaged with national issues and audiences, particularly since May, when a draft of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning the constitutional right to abortion leaked. His complaint about a lackluster Democratic response — “Where the hell is my party?” he asked at the time — immediately made Newsom a voice for frustrated liberals who want their leaders to stand up more forcefully against Republicans. He has leaned into that indignation ever since.

In one week in September, Newsom attended a climate conference in New York, where he bashed Texas’ GOP Gov. Abbott for “doubling down on stupid” with his commitment to fossil fuels, and then spoke at the Texas Tribune Festival in Austin, where he slammed Florida’s Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis as a “bully” for threatening to fine the Special Olympics for its coronavirus vaccination requirement.

Newsom and his aides insist that he is merely trying to shift attention to issues that are critical to Democratic voters and to put the Republican Party on the defensive, rather than raise his own profile to bolster a future presidential bid.

No one seriously expects Newsom to challenge President Biden should he seek re-election in 2024. But their relationship has appeared to cool in recent months. After reports that Biden allies were irked by Newsom’s leap into the culture wars over the summer, the president endorsed a farmworker unionization bill that

Newsom opposed, helping to jam the governor into signing it anyway. Newsom was noticeably absent when Biden visited California this month.

Speaking to reporters in Sacramento in early October, a rare session with the Capitol press corps this year, Newsom said that his experience with the recall election, when state and national GOP figures rallied around the attempt to oust him, had uniquely equipped him to push back on what he characterized as Republicans' divisive politics.

"So I understand the toxicity of the national discourse, in a way perhaps a lot do but in a more personal way, perhaps, than many," he said. "I think it's incredibly important to assert ourselves and to push back and to meet this moment head-on and not be naive about how ruthless the other side is."

'The introduction to the dance'

There is an enduring pull toward the White House for California governors, even as none besides Ronald Reagan, who won in 1980 on his second try, has ever come close.

In the past century, Hiram Johnson, Earl Warren and Pat Brown each made multiple unsuccessful bids for president. Arnold Schwarzenegger coveted the job, but was ineligible because he was not born in the United States. The last California governor to run, Pete Wilson in 1995, dropped out before the first primary, hamstrung by poor fundraising and a throat surgery that left him unable to speak for months.

"That's what politicians do. They're always moving, in one form or another," former Gov. Jerry Brown, who made three unsuccessful bids for the Democratic nomination between 1976 and 1992, said in a 2020 oral history of his career. "Anybody who's running for governor is thinking about being president. Why not?"

Brown said that running from California was a challenge, because candidates need to be relevant to the East Coast, where so many voters are located. One of his mistakes, he said, was not taking more of a national orientation during his first governorship and not selling his story harder to the media outside California.

"If you want to be their leader, you've got to be around and familiarize yourself," he said. "You can spend a lot of money, but the belief that resides in the voters, the pre-existing belief, determines a great deal."

But Sean Walsh, a veteran Republican political consultant who worked on Wilson's presidential campaign, said there are potential advantages for a California governor who plays it right. Politicians, their staff and their donors are constantly coming to the state to raise money, he noted, an opportunity to create connections and loyalty with people across the country who could aid a future run.

"You need to have relationships with the movers and shakers in those states," Walsh said. "That's the introduction to the dance. It's the ticket."

Like many Newsom observers, Walsh believes the governor has maneuvered himself well to quickly jump into the presidential race if Biden decides not to seek a second term for health or political reasons. But Walsh said the timeline for the 2028 election, when there is likely to be an open Democratic primary, couldn't be better for Newsom, who would be positioned to launch a campaign immediately after leaving the governor's office.

“The calendar favors you. So be a good guy, don’t get arrogant,” Walsh said. “As long as you are the good soldier for the party,” helping raise money and supporting Democratic policies, he added, “let people speculate about what you want. Let all the talk flourish.”

‘People want a fighter’

One Newsom adviser, in denying his presidential ambitions, said taking up the national culture wars benefits the governor just as much with his California constituents, who want Newsom out there fighting against former President Donald Trump and his brand of politics.

For many others, it seems like an obvious ploy to appeal to the Democratic activists who make up the party base in a presidential primary. Notably, Texas and Florida — Newsom’s most frequent targets — not only have two of the most prominent Republican governors in the country, with rumored presidential ambitions of their own, they are also two of the most delegate-rich states for an aspiring Democratic nominee, after California and New York.

“I think a lot of this is for audiences like me,” said Michael Kolenc, a Democratic political consultant based in Houston. “It’s a really important audience to play to.”

Kolenc said Newsom’s meddling in Texas, which has drawn some return fire from Abbott, is a “sales pitch” to the local Democrats whom he will need to endorse, staff, fund and volunteer for a future presidential campaign and a chance to lock up the best people for his team early. He said Newsom has done a good job getting on their radars and distinguishing himself from other possible contenders with an approach that turns his potential weakness — stereotypes about liberal California — into a strength to troll Republicans.

“You’re taking it to the guy who’s taking it to you,” Kolenc said. “People want a fighter.”

Though there is a political risk that Newsom’s presence in these Republican-leaning states could backfire by giving conservatives another boogeyman to run against, many Democrats give him credit for talking about the issues they yearn to hear about from their leaders, such as abortion rights and gun safety.

“We’re Democrats stuck in Florida. We long to be California,” said Wes Hodge, chairperson of the Orange County Democratic Party, which organizes Democrats in the Orlando area.

Newsom made a minor ripple in Florida with his advertisements over the summer, Hodge said, and though it has since been overshadowed by the state’s own heavily contested races and the response to Hurricane Ian, “it’s never a bad thing to reach out if you want to build your brand.”

Kim Olson, the Democratic nominee for Texas agriculture commissioner in a close 2018 race, said Newsom is “wise to reach out to a red, rural state...and test-drive his messaging here.” If he runs for president, she said, Newsom will need to figure out how to overcome perceptions that he is a progressive San Francisco elitist and appeal to voters beyond the coasts.

“If he can cut into here, he can probably do it in the rest of the country,” said Olson, who ran unsuccessfully this summer to lead the Texas Democratic Party with the backing of many rural county party officials. “If Gavin can capture that, that’ll kill the elite stuff.”

Olson, who criticizes the national party for not doing enough to support Texas Democrats, said she appreciated Newsom coming to Texas and feuding with Abbott because “it shows he gives a s–t.”

“No one pays attention to Texas. No one helps Texas. We are on our own,” she said. “If you want to come in and bitch-slap some of our Republican guys, knock your socks off.”


In Hidalgo County, the most populous along the border between Texas and Mexico, Samuel Reyes said he is grateful that Newsom, who has called for a federal investigation into Abbott and DeSantis busing and flying migrants to Democratic communities in the north, is providing a missing counterpoint to right-wing narratives.

Reyes, chief of staff for Hidalgo County Democrats, said Republicans have exploited a complicated situation at the border to unfairly portray his entire community like a war zone. While Newsom’s comments may turn off some of Texas’ more conservative Democrats, Reyes said they also help reframe the discussion in a way that gives local party officials more space to push back themselves.

“We don’t want to make it more ugly, but if we do believe in what we’re saying and we do believe that our message is right, then we do have to get it out there,” Reyes said. “I personally like that he’s doing that.”

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Carlos Castillo, Instructional Superintendent and
Edith Navarro, Administrator
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: November 10, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3354

Regarding: Parent Curricular Concern

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the concerns brought to the board by a parent on October 26, 2022, involving lessons and accompanying pictures.

A parent in Fresno Unified received an email from a Fresno Unified teacher titled, "Fwd: LGBTQ info for staff to read all grade levels". The parent stated that the teacher said, "San Diego Unified sent these lessons to the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS)." The parent stated that she was then told that FCSS sent the lessons to Fresno Unified.

In her review of the lessons, the parent read that teachers were recommended to follow several 'influencers' on social media as a resource. The parent went on to the influencers' Instagram and found what the parent determined as "offensive pictures." The pictures were enlarged and brought to the Board meeting. The parent also found a flyer from San Diego Pride advertising an event, "Boo Bash" in the San Diego Unified materials, to be held in San Diego, <https://sdpride.org/>

The aforementioned lesson plans are not on the Fresno Unified website, nor are they considered resources for our teachers. The lessons and materials spoken about by the parent have not been distributed by Fresno Unified. The Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning department does create inclusive lessons for all cultural, historical and heritage themed months. The lesson created for the LGBTQ+ History month of October is titled, "Respect and Be Kind to Everyone". (attached)

Administrator, Edith Navarro reached out to the parent on October 28, 2022, to confirm that the material came from San Diego and social media platforms. The San Diego lessons, and materials have not been adopted or distributed in Fresno Unified.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Carlos Castillo at 457-3673.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 11/10/2022

Fresno Unified Lesson Planning Tool

Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning Department: DEI Lessons for ELA
 October: *Respecting Differences*
 Grades K - 2



Objective

| | |
|---|---|
| Unit/Essential Question/Big Idea (not all are required—they are stated differently depending on the curriculum): | Big Idea: Respect and Be Kind to Everyone Essential Questions: How do you show kindness to people who are different from you? |
| Objective/Learning Target: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will gain an understanding of school being a community where diversity is celebrated, and everyone is welcome. |
| Standards Addressed (SEL*, Literacy, Math, NGSS, ELD, etc.): | Kindergarten: SL.K.1, 2, 4, First: SL.1.1, 1.2, 1.4, W.1.5 Second: SL.2.1, 2.2, 2.3, W.2.3 |
| Skills/Concepts: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening skills Asking and answering questions |

Instruction Aligned to the Objective

| | |
|--|--|
| Lesson Timeframe | One Day |
| Scaffolds Needed to Support/Accelerate Students—including language considerations/vocabulary: | The vocabulary words: Embedded within the videos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diversity: many different kinds of people respect: caring enough to consider how words and actions impact others. kindness: being friendly and caring about other people similarities: things that are the same differences: things that are different |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Grouping and Participation/ Discourse Strategies:</p> | | |
| <p>Use of Digital Tools, Materials, and Resources:</p> | <p>Video Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Kind to Everyone (song) 2:18 • All Are Welcome! Read Aloud 2:14 | |
| <p>Lesson Structure/ Sequence: Include checking for understanding opportunities</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">What Teacher is Doing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with playing the song: Be Kind to Everyone (song) 2:18 <p>Share with your students the learning objective: <i>Today we are going to discuss how to respect and make everyone in our classroom feel welcomed.</i></p> <p>Before you listen to the story <i>All Are Welcome</i> ask these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the first day at a new school or group gathering, have you ever worried that other children may not welcome you or want to be your friend? Many children all over the world feel that way. What can you do to make others feel welcome? • Look at the children and activities on cover of the book. Talk about the similarities and differences you see. • Ask the students to look for someone in the book that looks like them or their parents as the story is read. <p>Play Read Aloud: All Are Welcome! Read Aloud 2:14 (Stop and start as needed.)</p> <p>During the story, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think your friends are like you and different from you? How do you show kindness to people who are different from you? What are some kind things you do for each other? Why is it important to be kind? | <p style="text-align: center;">What Students Are Doing</p> <p>Students are listening and sharing their ideas during teacher lead discussions.</p> |

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| | <p>After the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you like to attend this classroom? What makes people feel welcome here? What did you learn that you would like to try in your school or group? <p>Activity: Choose one or more activities to assign to your students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Poster that reads, "All Are Welcome Here." Be creative with images that show warmth and interest in people's uniqueness. • Draw your family doing something you do that you think other families don't do. Write one or two sentences to explain your illustration. • 2nd Grade: Short response on: What might it feel like to be welcomed to a new school? Write a short sequence of events which includes transition words. | <p>Students will complete the activity that is assigned to them.</p> |
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Closure


- Review one or two of the questions you asked during the story and ask students to respond.
- Ask students to share their assigned activity
- Replay the song [Be Kind to Everyone \(song\)](#)

Assessment

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| <p>Whole Group Assessment (How will you assess the performance of all students?):</p> | <p>The teacher can assess the students' understanding through the classroom discussions.</p> | | |
| <p>Small groups-if applicable: (When differentiating instruction, how will groups be assessed?):</p> | <p>Approaching Grade Level:</p> <p>Draw a picture of your family. Label each person. Write one sentence about that tells how your family is different than one of your friend's family. Write one sentence that tells how your family is similar to another family.</p> <p>My family is different that my friend's family because _____.</p> <p>My family is the same as my friend's family because _____.</p> | <p>On Grade Level:</p> <p>Follow lesson plan as written.</p> | <p>Beyond Grade Level:</p> <p><u>Possible Extension Lessons:</u></p> <p>Students can answer in writing any of the below prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some ways you can welcome students to your classroom, school, and community? • Have you ever felt like you weren't included in something? How did that make you feel? |

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ed Gomes, Instructional Superintendent
and Julie Severns, Ed.D., Administrator
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: November 10, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3656

Regarding: The Wallace Foundation Equity Centered Pipeline Initiative

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board an update on the work of the Equity Centered Pipeline Initiative funded by The Wallace Foundation.

Background

Fresno Unified was selected as one of eight districts nationwide to participate in the five-year initiative. The grant provides approximately \$4 million to Fresno Unified and up to \$8 million total to support the partnerships with San Diego State University, National University, the California Department of Education (CDE), and the California Commission on Teaching Credentials (CTC). There are seven domains that must be addressed in each year of the grant. Updates are provided in each of the domains.

Leader standards

The district has adopted the California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (CPSEL) for all site and department leaders. Small groups are in the process of identifying areas of equity within each standard. Handbooks will be created to support leader reflective practice and support.

High quality pre-service principal preparation

The district partnered with San Diego State University in May 2022 to begin Leadership Cohort XVII with twenty participants who will graduate in May 2023. The recruitment process has started to select the next group to participate in Cohort XVIII. We will be piloting clinical experiences with National University that can be utilized with other institutions to increase the applicant eligibility pool,

Selective hiring and placement

A cross departmental team will be researching and benchmarking practices in other school districts. The affinity group of Black Educators United worked with the Human Resources leadership team to identify areas of concern and possible actions related to recruitment, hiring, and retention.

Evaluation and support

This domain provides for differentiated support for leaders at various stages of their career. New leaders participated in a summer onboarding combined with leadership coaching support. Co-Administrators participated in a summer institute called Leadership Camp that focused on Coaching for Equity. Affinity groups have started and continued to grow to provide an opportunity for networking and support with like groups of leaders. Men of Color in Educational Leadership (MCEL), Black Women Educators United (BWEU), and African American Principals United (AAPU) all supported our Black/African American leaders. A book study around Leading While Female has started with plans to begin groups for Asian and Hispanic leaders. All groups are optional and seek to increase the diversity of our leadership workforce while also providing supports for them.

Principal supervisors

The supervisors of schools participated in professional learning communities in year one based on their own set of supervisor standards to develop skills as coaches who differentiate support based on principal need. We will be building an aspiring supervisor program to provide opportunities for those principals seeking central office positions.

Leader tracking system

An information system will be developed to be able to track and access data related to aspiring and existing leaders. A work team has been doing the foundational work and will be utilizing the Wallace provided technical assistance to begin the development of the system in year two. The data is currently housed in different forms across departments and is not easily accessible for purposes of succession planning, hiring, professional development, and program improvement.

Systems and sustainability

A District Partnership Team made up of the Superintendent, department leaders, university program leads, state agency leads, and Wallace Foundation representatives meet bimonthly to monitor progress and address actions in the Fresno Unified workplan. Cross departmental work teams have been developed to reduce siloed efforts and ensure leadership development efforts are owned across departments. Wallace domain actions are supported by other funding sources for sustainability.

Fresno Unified serves as the fiscal agent for all partners and monitors workplans and budgets in support of the grant. The total award for year two is \$2.32 million to be distributed as follows: \$1 million to Fresno Unified, \$600,000 to each university partner, and \$120,000 for the state agencies.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Julie Severns, Administrator of Leadership Development, at 457-3656.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 11/10/2022