



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
January 11, 2023

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 11, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas participated from the following teleconference location: 4135 E. Huntington Boulevard, Fresno, California 93702 which was open to the public and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (B)(2) all action taken during the teleconferenced meeting was by roll call vote.

Board President Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Board Member Thomas took the ceremonial Oath of Office for the position of Trustee, Board of Education, Trustee Area 1

TRUSTEE AREA 1

Ms. Dezie Woods-Jones administered the Oath of Office to Keshia Thomas, re-elected Board Member to Trustee Area 1. Member Thomas will serve a four-year term (2022 – 2026).

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 Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:30 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Davis arrived at 4:38 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 5:50 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 5:55 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Kim Kelstrom to Chief Executive in Fiscal Services by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup and Board President Islas.
- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Steve Shubin, Deputy Executive in Payroll by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup and Board President Islas.
- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board President Islas, the Board acted in Closed Session to file an appeal on case: Don A. Arax vs. Fresno Unified School District and Keshia Thomas, Fresno Superior Court Case No. 22CECG02449, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Wittrup and Board President Islas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Cazares led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- As the first board meeting of the calendar year, let me officially welcome you President Islas and Clerk Wittrup to board leadership – thank you for stepping up to serve in these crucial roles.
- I need to start tonight acknowledging and sending our thoughts and prayers to Abigail Zwerner, a first-grade teacher in Virginia who was tragically shot by one of her 6-year-old students. We are all reeling from this tragedy, both from the unimaginable violence in the classroom and seeing this violence stemming from younger and younger children. Safety on our campuses, both for our students and staff, continues to be of the utmost importance. Equally as important are the supports we provide to students and staff to prevent tragedies like this one, and the supports we provide to our staff, students, and families when they are experiencing trauma or social emotional struggles. I am proud of this Board and our Fresno Unified team for continually increasing our supports in physical safety improvements as well as social emotional learning, especially through our Department of Prevention and Intervention. I am grateful to the City of Fresno Police Department for our strong partnership, which soon will include a program called Handle with Care. This program will ensure when a student of ours is facing trauma outside of school and police contact is involved, a warm handoff will be made with our schools so they can properly support the student. We were all saddened to learn this child took this firearm from home in his backpack to school – something he never should have had access to in the first place. I need to make

HEAR Report from Superintendent - continued

an urgent plea to our parents and families to come alongside us in ensuring safety in our schools. We urge parents and families to practice gun safety and have those conversations with your children. We urge parents and families to let our schools know when their child might be going through a tough time – WE CAN HELP, but we can only help when we know help is needed. Preventing tragedies and keeping our schools safe is an effort that we ALL must work together to be successful.

- I also want to take a quick moment to honor the legacy of Vurdell Newsome, a prior teacher, counselor, and administrator for over 33 years in our district. We send our condolences to Mr. Newsome's family and loved ones, and we send our gratitude for a lifetime of service to our Fresno Unified Family.
- Shifting gears, I am thrilled to announce that every single one of our high school and adult school students now have access to free monthly FAX bus passes from your school office! This is something I have been working on for several years, and I am so grateful to the City of Fresno and our Purchasing Department for working together to make this a reality. Any Fresno Unified high school or adult school student can request a FAX monthly bus pass now directly from their school office. Fresno Unified parents – if you do NOT want your student to have access to a free FAX bus pass, please call your school office and let them know you would like to opt-out of this resource. Transportation for school, for internships, for part-time work, for dual enrollment at our community colleges, and to explore opportunities across our great city is a huge step in making sure our students have access to success.
- This week saw the opening of our application window for the Fresno Unified Scholarship program! This year, due to the efforts of our Foundation and the generosity of donors like MacKenzie Scott, we are able to triple the number of scholarships AND triple the dollar amount we are able to distribute in scholarships. We are looking at giving out over 200 scholarships to graduating seniors, so every one of our seniors should be applying! Work with your academic counselor to get your application built and submitted by the deadline of March 1! We are also thrilled to announce another scholarship opportunity at our Foundation through our newly funded Jim Newton Memorial Scholarship in the memory of a longtime Fresno Unified principal. This scholarship will provide \$5,000! I encourage our students to apply to both and get critical help as you start your postsecondary education. Access to both applications can be found on our website homepage at www.fresnounified.org.
- Tomorrow, we are thrilled to be celebrating the grand opening of Duncan's new Medical Academy of Science and Health (or MASH) building! This state-of-the-art building will provide amazing learning opportunities for our students in our certified nursing assistant, pharmacy technician, and rehabilitation therapy programs. More information to come at the grand opening. I would like to thank our CTE team for working hard to bring state level grants to fund part of this work, our Fresno community for continually supporting our bond measures to make this work possible, and to our operations and facilities teams, as well as our partners for their innovative and cutting-edge design to best support our kids.

HEAR Report from Superintendent - continued

- One last shoutout to our teams as our district was awarded the 2022 Friends of Safe Kids Education Award by Safe Kids Central California, led by Valley Children's Hospital. This award recognizes organizations that help students learn how to prevent injuries and about the wide range of opportunities in health care fields. The organization singled out the work of career technical education managers Michelle Mar and Krishna Reyes. Amazing work team – thank you for always working to keep our kids safe!
- Speaking of safety – we have been working collaboratively with our City, County, and neighboring school districts to come together around traffic safety in our community, especially around our schools. Knowing that Fresno is the 10th deadliest city for pedestrians in our nation and seeing car accidents with children or school buses increase this school year – we are doing everything we can to keep our kids safe, but we need your help. As drivers and walkers, we implore you to be vigilant and safe while driving and walking in the community, especially around our schools and around busy drop-off and pick-up times. Let us take a moment to watch the great traffic safety PSA made by our communications and safety teams – the first of several to come.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Board Members had the opportunity for Board/Superintendent communications. A summary is as follows:

Clerk Wittrup: Expressed condolences to the family of Tom Hendrix, a retired Fresno Unified School District school psychologist and shared special words of remembrance.

Member Cazares: Thanked those of Hoover High School community who have been affected by the death of student Rashad Al-Hakim. Requested Superintendent when meeting with Fresno City Council to keep in mind a wide level of physical interventions pertaining to traffic safety. Congratulated Hoover High basketball team. Thanked the Facilities team for work on the Hoover Library and Student Center.

Member Davis: Wished everyone a Happy New Year! Thanked her liaison for gift received in celebration of Hmong New Year. Requested Superintendent Dr. Nelson to schedule a Board retreat. Provided shout out to Sunnyside High School football coaches.

Member Levine: Wished everyone a Happy New Year! Thanked Design Science and Student Advisory Board representatives for their report, their work, and modeling leadership. Shared information from tour of Oakland Community Schools, specifically supports for new immigrants. Shared he is excited for our district's future.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS - continued

Student Member Aquino: Thanked Board Members, Campus Culture Manager Loewen, Campus Culture Director LaFlam, and Hoover Principal Wheeler for their work in support of students. Encouraged seniors to finish the year strong and to apply for scholarships.

Student Member Barajas: Thanked Board Members, Campus Culture Director Panicotti, and McLane Principal Wulf, for their support. Expressed appreciation for the emphasis on mental health and social emotional supports and shared a concern pertaining to substance abuse and requested support in that area as well.

Board President Islas: Wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcome back. Commented on the importance of the work of the district and decision making of the Board. Shared each Board Member is committed to creating the best educational system for students. Commented Board Members may have different ideas of how work should move forward but are unified in the mission. Recognized the task is not easy, there is much work, and welcomed the ideas of parents. Commented she is hopeful with respectful discourse the Board and community can work collectively in support of student achievements. Shout outs to Duncan for the ribbon cutting of their new medical building. Very excited about the Fresno Area Express (FAX) bus passes for students.

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 Cazares, the Consent Agenda, apart from Agenda Items A-5 and A-15, 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, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSENT: Board Member 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. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

- 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 December 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting.
- A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting**
APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the December 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting.
- A-4, ADOPT Resolutions Delineating Authorized District Agents to Sign on Behalf of Fresno Unified School District**
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolutions 23-14 through 23-38 presented for adoption to update authorized officials to sign various business transactions on behalf of Fresno Unified School District. The Superintendent recommends adoption. Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal impact to the district at this time. Contact person: Patrick Jensen, telephone 457-6226.
- A-5, APPROVE Agreement with The Center for Black Educator Development**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement between The Center for Black Educator Development and Fresno Unified School District.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-5. A summary is as follows:

Clerk Wittrup: Commented ensuring a physically and psychologically safe school environment is critical for student learning; especially students continuously facing systemic barriers. Discipline disparities and bias from school staff are part of the school experience for Black students. Commented she whole-heartedly supports all efforts to bring transformation to this challenge. Shared concerns with the support material provided such as materials were poorly prepared and did not convey what was needed to make an informed decision. Commented, trainings should be designed for students and not adults as listed in the original material. Requested clarity as to if there is research to show this training works, what are the expected outcomes, and how will parents be involved? Requested staff to create a plan that allows parents to review the program, provide feedback, and ask questions before the training takes place.

Member Cazares: Requested staff to provide Board Members established documents once documents are ready.

Member Levine: Shared excitement and full support for this work. Requested clarity as to total number of participants.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

Member Davis: Shared concerns with the proposal as it did not go as deep as she would have liked, expected something more professional. Understood the district was going to find someone local. Commented, did not see data showing success. Commented students deserve a deeper dive and access to people in our community, with a buy-in to children in our community. Requested to see something more robust from our own people and our own community.

Member Thomas: Commented what we need is to make sure we do research. We have used this company, they are very reputable, and teachers from cohort they worked with love them. If this work were easy, we would not be having the problems we already have. These are people who have implemented some of this work that we need done in Fresno. Expressed belief that this company can continue to do work they already started. Commented our community is great, that is why we can do what we do every day. A4 is a great space but we cannot continue to overwork people or ask them to do things beyond their purview.

Clerk Wittrup: Shared one reason that prompted support of this item, even though materials were skimpy and poorly prepared, was talking with Deputy Superintendent Her, Chief Castillo, Instructional Superintendent Stacy-Alcantara, and knowing Principal Torigian has met with these folks and feels strongly the training will be beneficial. In this case, the materials do not represent what is coming forward and she does not want the students at Bullard to wait any longer.

Member Davis: Commented she does not want to hold back the work and requested insurance that staff will provide more information. Commented the proposal does not address the issue the students experienced. Feels the work needs to be deeper and broader, and parents need to be part of the plan.

Chief Castillo was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Clerk Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item A-5 was approved by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. NOES: Board Member Davis.

A-6, APPROVE Agreement with The Foundation FCOE, Inc. and the Fresno Unified Early Learning Department

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement to distribute funds in the amount of \$115,428 from the California Department of Education Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program grant, awarded to Fresno Unified Early Learning.

A-7, APPROVE Agreement with StudentNest, Inc.

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with StudentNest, Inc.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

A-8, APPROVE Agreement with Cenergistic, LLC
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement between Cenergistics and Fresno Unified School District.

A-9, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-06, Plumbing Supplies
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 23-06, Plumbing Supplies, which is recommended for award to establish a fixed unit price for the purchase of plumbing supplies for use district wide such as faucets, hydration stations, and water closets.

A-10, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-07, Digital Monitoring Products Parts for Intrusion Upgrades
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 23-07, Digital Monitoring Products (DMP) for parts related to intrusion upgrades.

A-11, APPROVE the 2023 List of Board Member Committees and Organizations
APPROVED as recommended, the 2023 list of Board Member Committees and Organizations.

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 13 presented for ratification: \$62,194

Bid 21-24, Columbia Elementary School Classroom Building Addition
Change Order 9 presented for ratification: \$9,516

Bid 22-30, Tenaya Middle School Office and Sitework Improvements
Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$10,210

Formal Quote, Education Center Restroom Remodel
Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$25,939

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

Bid 21-11, Edison High School Gymnasium Addition

Bid 21-24, Columbia Elementary School Classroom Building Addition

Bid 22-49, Sections A, B, C, and D, Asphalt Pavement Rehabilitation at Various Sites, Group 2, Dave Christian Construction Co. Inc.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

A-14, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2022 through October 31, 2022 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2022 through October 31, 2022. Two agenda items are presented to ratify purchase orders. The first item includes the Primary Report with all purchase orders issued during the reported dates with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.

A-15, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2022 through October 31, 2022 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2022 through October 31, 2022.

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

“Agenda item A-15 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders for the Fresno County EOC. I have been employed by Fresno County EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation.

Additionally, item A-15 also contains purchase orders for California State University Fresno, where I am currently employed. I did not participate in the making of the contracts related to these purchase orders; but, because of my employment with both Fresno EOC and Fresno State I have a remote financial interest in those contracts.

Item A-15 also contains purchase orders for Apple. I have financial investments in Apple that are valued at or above the reporting threshold.

For these reasons, 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 A-15 was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Levine.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-16, PRESENT and DISCUSS Overview of Parent University's Family Leadership Academies

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:

Member Davis: Thanked Parent University and commented this work is worthy of a nomination for the Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association.

Member Levine: Expressed appreciation for work with this initiative and thankful for leadership and involvement. Hearing stories of parents learning to navigate their child's education is inspiring. Requested information pertaining to meeting on the 30th and requested an invitation be provided to Board Members.

Member Cazares: Congratulated and thanked Parent University staff and families. Shared a few comments made by parents in presentation. Commented it can be intimidating to go on campus especially when you do not know the teacher or principal and Parent University helps to break those barriers. Commented most of the time parents are the best advocate for their children and learning how to navigate the educational system and communicate on behalf of children is very important to help ensure students are college and career ready.

Clerk Wittrup: Thanked families for attending the Board Meeting. Commented a parent's engagement in their child's education is instrumental in a child's success. Commented the Board welcomes parent engagement and recognizes parents as the Board's most valuable partners. Requested Parent University consider adding a special education component for parents.

Board President Islas: Expressed thanks to Chankeo and Maiyer for their work. Commented love the whole mission and work for many reasons; the dialogue, helps parents to feel empowered, and some of the best ideas are generated by parents as they have lived experience and are working through our system. Shared support of Clerk Wittrup's request to add a special education component to Parent University.

Chief Henry was available to provide clarity.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA-continued

B-17, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2023/24 Local Control and Accountability Plan Educational Partner Input

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-17.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-17. A summary is as follows:

Board President Islas: Shared when first elected she attended a few LCAP meetings and found they were lacking; and she had received many complaints from parents sharing they felt the meetings were designed to speak to parents rather to engage parents. Commented with Mrs. Townsend's involvement and diligent work, it has been a complete 360, with the addition of Thought Exchange and a parent's ability to engage in their own language it is amazing, and now the Board has good data on which to base decisions. Commented on the importance of food systems and school meals because hungry students do not learn. Student meals has been a consistent theme brought forward by parents. Commented the district serves many families dealing with food insecurity and families should be able to count on the food served at schools to be done well.

Member Thomas: Commented this is one of the best LCAP presentations she has seen. Expressed thanks to Mrs. Townsend. Commented very pleased with the addition of Thought Exchange.

Member Levine: Commented very impressed with Mrs. Townsends leadership and team, thankful for her work and the data provided. Commented on importance of knowing nuances between social emotional needs and behavioral needs and working to figure out root causes and being thoughtful when preparing supports for students.

Member Davis: Thanked Mrs. Townsend for her work in elevating the LCAP experience, engagement has been fabulous. Commented the addition of Thought Exchange is a nonconfrontational way for people to express themselves.

Clerk Wittrup: Expressed thanks for data presented and the ability to look at it in so many ways. Thanked Mrs. Townsend for providing the data to principals. Commented on the heavy lift of facilitating these meetings and thanked Mrs. Townsend, her team, and Dr. Baker for their attendance at meetings.

Member Cazares: Thanked Mrs. Townsend for her leadership and service to the students of the district. Thanked Mrs. Townsend for taking suggestions from the Board, parents, community, and implementing those suggestions in the best way

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA-continued

possible. It shows in the data and allows the Board to use data from lived experiences from parents and community. Requested clarity as to new languages used in the LCAP? Commented on the number of parent participants. Requested school specific feedback be provided to Board Members. Commented this work also seems worthy of a Golden Bell nomination.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Very much appreciated several items from this presentation; specifically, the timing and receiving information early when budgets are being worked on; seeing the evolution of meetings over the years, and Mrs. Townsends willingness to try different routes to gather feedback and encourage engagement. Commented on the importance of better communication pertaining to the dress code. Requested staff to follow up on dress code communication. Thanked Mrs. Townsend for her service.

Executive Officer Townsend was available to provide clarity.

For the record, the Board and Superintendent Dr. Nelson recognized Mrs. Townsend for her service to the district.

B-18, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2021/22 Bond Annual Report

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: Those which had vacancies on the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee commented they will work to fill vacancies.

Member Cazares: Thanked staff for the presentation. Commented on the quick work of the Facilities team to address issues in a timely manner. Asked if the Bullard High fence should be added for consideration.

Member Levine: Thanked staff for presentation and work, appreciated the knowledge and expertise staff bring and the spirit in which work is addressed.

Member Thomas: Requested staff when preparing the next bond measure to include specialty schools.

Member Davis: Thanked staff for responding to work orders. Requested staff to connect with the City of Fresno regarding issues schools are facing from excess rainwater. Requested a board communication regarding vacancies on the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA-continued

Clerk Wittrup: Thanked Chief Idsvoog and Executive Officer Belanger, for walking school sites with her. Commented on how the conditions of facilities can impact mental health.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Shared agreement to a need for a facility needs assessment and when looking at the assessment the importance of keeping the commitment to equity.

Board President Islas: Commented there are important opportunities to get City/County support in terms of infrastructure. Recently Measure C did not pass the vote, and one of the deficiencies of Measure C was it did not have enough funding for safe routes to school. Measure C will come back, and this is an opportunity for the Board to advocate to influence dollars at the city level. Commented she is aware the district will submit an RFQ to gather assessments around safe routes to schools, these assessments are valuable to help identify areas of needed improvement. It would behoove the Board to consider what are infrastructure absolutes. Expressed appreciation for the good work. Acknowledged there is more need than resources and the importance of data to help pinpoint areas of priority.

Chief Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, there were no items for this section of the agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:33 p.m.