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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – JANUARY 13, 2023**

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 – Patrick Jensen, Interim Chief Officer**

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for  
January 06, 2023

**ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS – Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer**

EEP-1 Wendy McCulley Giving Tuesday Results

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: January 13, 2023  
Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Site visits at Easton, McCardle and Wawona
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Attended CART Board Meeting
- Met with Chief Balderrama, Fresno Police Department, regarding “Handle with Care” program
- Participated in monthly call with Council of the Great City Schools Superintendents
- Attended the Duncan MASH Building Grand Opening Ceremony
- Spoke at the Southeast Asian Conference – Journey to Success at Fresno State
- Attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Garlanding Ceremony
- Met with FASTA

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 01/13/2023

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number BFS-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Executive Officer  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: January 13, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for January 06, 2023

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 January 06, 2023 is attached and includes the following articles:

- Speaker Rendon Announces Committee Chairs – January 24, 2023
- Schools Dig Out from Big Weekend Storm, Prepare for Next One – January 04, 2023
- Gov. Gavin Newsom Declares Emergency for Major California Storm, Flooding in Forecast – January 05, 2023

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: 01/13/2023



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[www.sscal.com](http://www.sscal.com)

DATE: January 6, 2023

TO: Robert G. Nelson  
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

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## Legislature Returns from Holiday Break

The Legislature returned from their holiday break on Wednesday, but the two floor sessions they held this week before returning to their districts for the weekend were brief and not substantive. When they return next week, they will have a chance to respond to Governor Gavin Newsom's 2023-24 State Budget proposal and continue to introduce legislation. They likely will not begin to do any policy committee or budget subcommittee work until late January or early February.

## Governor Newsom to Unveil 2023-24 State Budget Proposal Next Week

Governor Newsom is required to release his proposed 2023-24 State Budget by next Tuesday, January 10, 2023. This means he needs to unveil his proposal either Monday or Tuesday in order to comply with this constitutional requirement.

With the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) projecting that California faces a \$25 billion budget deficit heading into the 2023-24 fiscal year, we will be looking for the following education issues when Governor Newsom introduces his 2023-24 State Budget proposal next week:

- **Budget Deficit**—Will the Newsom Administration's projected budget deficit align with the LAO projection?
- **Proposition 98 Reserve**—What is the Administration's projection of how large of a withdrawal they will be legally required to make from the Proposition 98 reserve?
- **COLA**—How will the Administration's statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) estimate compare with the LAO's 8.73% estimate?
- **LCFF**—Will the Governor commit to fully funding the statutory COLA for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)? Will he follow through on the

commitment he made to Assemblymember Weber (D-San Diego) to provide additional, ongoing LCFF funding for the lowest performing student group?

- **Categorical Programs**—Will Governor Newsom propose to apply the statutory COLA to the K-12 and community college categorical programs? Will the Governor introduce any new programs despite the projected budget deficit?
- **Reductions**—Will the Governor propose clawing back some of the \$13 billion in one-time funding from the 2022-23 State Budget that has yet to be sent to local educational agencies? Will he propose to reduce and revise funding for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program as the LAO recommends in their *Fiscal Outlook* report?

We will provide more information about what is in the Governor’s State Budget proposal in subsequent *Sacramento Updates* over the next several weeks and will provide updates on the proposals as they begin to be vetted by legislative budget subcommittees.

*Leilani Aguinaldo*

## Speaker Rendon Announces Committee Chairs

By Kyle Hyland  
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*  
January 24, 2023

On Thursday, December 22, 2022, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) announced his committee chair appointments for the 2023-24 Legislative Session.

On the budget side, Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) will retain his chairmanship of the Assembly Budget Committee. Additionally, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) has been reappointed to chair the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance, which is the subcommittee tasked with vetting and approving the education issues in the State Budget.

On the policy side, Speaker Rendon has tapped Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) to replace outgoing Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach) as chair of the Assembly Education Committee. Over the past several years Assemblymember Muratsuchi has introduced legislation to increase the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base grants by setting new aspirational LCFF funding levels that would propel California nationally into the top ten states in K-12 education funding. It is unclear at this time if the new chair intends on reintroducing a measure to increase the LCFF base rates, but this is something that we will be monitoring.

Speaker Rendon has also retained Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) as chair of the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee, which is an important position considering that any bill deemed to have a fiscal impact must clear the Appropriations Committee.

It is important to note that Speaker Rendon gives his chairs significant autonomy and has, in the past couple of years, afforded his chairs the discretion to set their own agenda on the bills that get heard in their committee. This means that chairs can unilaterally decide whether or not a bill gets heard.

It is also important to remember that on July 1, 2023, Speaker Rendon will turn the gavel over to Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Salinas), who will then have the power to make changes to the Assembly committee chair assignments and thus is something we will be monitoring as the transition draws closer.

On the Senate side, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) has yet to announce her committee chair appointments. We will be sure to provide an update to the field in a subsequent *Fiscal Report* article once that information is released. Stay tuned.



*Note: The entire state, including K-12 schools, are grappling with the strong storms that have hit the Golden State this past week and are scheduled to continue next week.*

## **Schools Dig Out from Big Weekend Storm, Prepare for Next One**

By Diana Lamberg  
*EdSource*  
January 4, 2023

Sinbad Creek, swollen from hours of heavy rainfall, burst through the fence surrounding Sunol Glen School in Alameda County on Saturday night, damaging three classrooms and two offices, destroying the school's garden, athletic track and playground, and leaving 8 inches of mud and downed trees in its wake.

By the time Superintendent Molleen Barnes arrived at the Spanish-style campus Sunday, the water had receded, but she found the school's day care classroom, tutoring center and art classroom had been badly damaged when the rush of water pushed the portables they were housed in off their foundations.

Five large storage containers used by the school and community, also unmoored by the water, had slammed into playground equipment and destroyed it.

"The fence line is a mess. The yard is a mess, and our beautiful garden is pretty much kaput," Barnes told families in a video message. "We are working hard to get things back together as best we can and ready for Jan. 9. The idea is to open on Jan. 9 and welcome your children in."

An atmospheric river storm brought heavy rain and snowfall and high winds to California over the New Year's holiday weekend. The result was flooding, downed trees and power outages that threatened to delay the reopening of school after the winter holiday break.

Members of the Sunol Glen community helped with cleanup on the campus that houses the 270 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. The campus, which shares Main Street with a mini-mart, a barbershop and a restaurant, has been a school and community hub, hosting community meetings, plays and events, since it was built in 1925.

Although many volunteers pitched in to help, including a father with a backhoe, much of the work is being completed by a restoration management company. Insurance adjusters will determine how much of the damaged property can be salvaged and what is a loss.

It's not clear how many other schools in the state were damaged by last weekend's storm. In many cases, school staff are still inspecting properties.

The one-school district, and others in flood-prone areas of the state, are preparing for the next big storm, expected to arrive today. The storm and atmospheric river could bring more heavy rain, causing flooding in urban areas and around rivers, streams and creeks, according to the National Weather Service. Snow and high winds could also make getting to and from school treacherous in the mountains. Power outages are again likely in some parts of the state.

"We are sandbagging and moving shipping containers, clearing the drains, trying to do everything we can do to batten down the hatches for round No. 2," Barnes said.

Santa Cruz County is one of the areas in the state expected to be hit hard by heavy rains and runoff through Thursday. School and county emergency staff met Monday to plan for the storm, including deciding which schools should be closed Tuesday, said Nick Ibarra, spokesman for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

Schools in areas still under evacuation orders and that are determined to be inaccessible to students will be closed. Decisions to close schools once the storm hits will be made on a case-by-case basis depending on conditions, he said.

“Most of our students have not yet returned from winter break, which is fortunate in that sense considering the severity of the storm we are expecting,” Ibarra said.

Some schools in the county will be used as evacuation centers, he said.

New Alameda County Office of Education Superintendent Alysse Castro hadn’t even been sworn in yet when she got the call from Barnes about the damage to Sunol Glen School. She called Jake Wolf, a member of the California Department of Education’s Emergency Services Team.

The team, formed in 2020, includes Wolf and Joe Anderson, both former employees of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. The duo helps school officials communicate with state and federal agencies during emergencies like wildfires, earthquakes and storms. They offer up-to-date information about the emergency from the state operations center briefings they attend daily, give technical assistance about accessing government funds, connect school officials with needed resources and offer them advice on how to safely reopen schools.

“We know there is a significant storm front that’s rolling in on Wednesday and Thursday, so we’ll be monitoring those impacts statewide,” Wolf said. “We will be trying to determine what level of support may be needed on the local and county front.”

Predicting where problems will pop up is difficult, he said.

“We don’t actually know where the rain is going to fall,” Wolf said. “And then you have counties like Alameda and Sacramento, where there’s a lot of channels, a lot of rivers, creeks and streams that are floating through. All it takes is somebody’s shed to get washed into a creek, and it’ll block a culvert and then all of a sudden now you’ve got a flood.”

Wolf’s best advice to school officials who could be affected by the storm is to track National Weather Service reports for their area and to stay connected with their county Office of Education to ensure they have the most up-to-date information available.

Nicholas Zafiratos, the program coordinator for the Safe Schools for All program at the Monterey County Office of Education, has been visiting the county’s Office of Emergency Services offices daily to get updates on the storms.

County Superintendent of Schools Deneen Guss posts regular updates to the county’s 20 school district superintendents on a WhatsApp chat. If there is a need for more detailed information there are emails and phone calls, she said.



So far, the county's schools have fared well in the storms, but levees near Chualar Elementary School near Salinas are expected to break, according to Guss. Cal Fire crews are at the school doing their best to protect it, she said.

Guss urged superintendents to take precautions before the next storm, which is expected to bring heavy rain and high winds to the area this afternoon and evening.

"We put all our schools on notice yesterday," she said. "We know they are prepared. When we get really strong rains like this in older facilities, like portables, the roofs leak."

South San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Shawnterra Moore announced its schools will be closed Thursday. The district serves the communities of Daly City, South San Francisco and San Bruno.

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*Note: On Wednesday, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in response to a powerful atmospheric river storm that pelted California with heavy rain, snow, and gusty winds.*

## **Gov. Gavin Newsom Declares Emergency for Major California Storm, Flooding in Forecast**

By Michael McGough  
*The Sacramento Bee*  
January 5, 2023

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday morning declared a state of emergency in response to a powerful atmospheric river storm that is expected to intensify later in the day and is forecast to pound Northern California with heavy rain, snow and extremely gusty winds.

"This proclamation will allow the state to respond quickly as the storm develops and support locals in their ongoing response," the governor's office wrote in a tweet just after 11 a.m.

"We anticipate that this may be one of the most challenging and impactful series of storms to touch down in California in the last five years," Nancy Ward, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, said during a Wednesday morning news conference.

"If the storm materializes as we anticipate, we could see widespread flooding, mudslides and power outages in many communities."

Ward said the declaration is a statewide emergency. California has activated its state operations center to respond to emergency conditions.

Forecasts show up to 3 inches of rain could fall in the Sacramento region and wind gusts exceeding 50 mph could topple trees and power poles. Even more rain is expected in the foothills and parts of the Bay Area. The storm comes on the heels of a major New Year's Eve storm that pummeled much of Northern California, including the Sacramento region, and with forecasters also anticipating more atmospheric river storms in the days following Wednesday and Thursday's torrent.

Cal OES in a statement earlier Wednesday said it had “strategically prepositioned critical resources” in eight counties: Contra Costa, Lake, Monterey, Sonoma and El Dorado, where weather officials have issued warnings for wildfire burn scar areas; as well as Sacramento, Butte and Marin, where there are “major” flooding concerns.

Cal OES is deploying 14 incident management team units, two helicopters, five fire engines and a swift water rescue team to Sacramento County, according to the news release.

“Residual flooding impacts could linger into the weekend before another potentially impactful storm returns early next week,” state emergency officials wrote.

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number E&EP-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Wendy McCulley, Chief of  
Engagement & External Partnerships  
Cabinet Approval: *Wendy McCulley*

Date: January 13, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3749

Regarding: Giving Tuesday Results

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information about the Giving Tuesday campaign which occurred on November 29, 2022.

Two friendly competitions between the regions took place on November 29, 2022. Each Board member represented their respective region, with the Superintendent also representing a special eighth region – consisting of our alternative education, magnet, and specialty schools.

180 donations from 160 individual donors brought in a total of \$11,195 to fund regional scholarships. A breakdown of those donations is shown here:

- Edison Region: \$5,545, Donors: 44
- Fresno High Region: \$1,695, Donors: 35
- Magnet, Specialty & Alternative Education Region: \$1,240, Donors: 27
- McLane Region: \$895, Donors: 22
- Bullard Region: \$570, Donors: 19
- Hoover Region: \$490, Donors: 20
- Roosevelt Region: \$395, Donors: 15
- Sunnyside Region: \$365, Donors: 13

In addition, there were two challenges that day with the winning region receiving an extra \$500 in scholarship funds for each. Trustee Thomas, representing the Edison region, won both challenges for largest number of donors by noon and the largest donation of the day.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Wendy McCulley at 457-3749.

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.

*Robert G. Nelson*

Date: 01/13/2023