



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 25, 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 25, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was away attending the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Superintendent's Symposium.

Board President Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:35 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:36 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas arrived at 5:10 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Thomas arrived at 4:40 p.m.

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

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:20 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:26 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 promote Randy Powell to Director, General in Human Resources/Labor Relations 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.

Reporting Out of Closed Session - continued

- On a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Claim for Rupinder Sandhu, Case No. 2012-0740; 2005-0200, 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 President Islas, the Board acted in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Claim for Paula Alarcon, Case No. WC20-0908-5090, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Islas led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Report from Deputy Superintendent

- Superintendent Nelson is at the ACSA Superintendent's Symposium, and I am honored to be able to fill in for him this evening. I have a few updates and celebrations to share this evening.
- Reminder, the Scholarship Application is OPEN! We are tripling the number of scholarships we are giving out this year and we want you to be one of those recipients! Head to our website to apply online and reach out to your Academic Counselor if you would like any support with your application.
- Shoutout to our almost 60 Excellence in Education nominees! Nominees will be recognized on Tuesday evening at our awards dinner, where we will announce the six winners in front of a sold-out crowd of 700! This is one of my favorite nights of the year where our Fresno Unified Family is out in full force, celebrating and recognizing one another. We are an amazing team! If you get a chance, make sure to say congratulations to the nominees in your life!
- Next week, the evening following our awards we will hold our 9th Annual Edison Region Black History Month Program at Roosevelt's Audra McDonald Theater! Join us to kick off Black History Month with amazing performances by our students – this event NEVER disappoints! Thank you to all staff and students who make this production happen every year – we are so happy to be back in person this year!
- Speaking of performances – I have a few shoutouts for our amazingly talented students. First, I want to share how proud we are of our McLane Hmong Dance Program. The McLane Hmong dancers were invited and performed in celebration of the newly elected Oakland Mayor, Sheng Thao. Mayor Thao is the first Hmong American Mayor of a major city in the United States! Our students did amazing, and we are proud they were able to celebrate the Hmong culture and showcase their talents.

HEAR Report from Deputy Superintendent - continued

- Second, I want to thank our amazing King Elementary African American Dance Troupe for their performance at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Garlanding Ceremony last week. As always, our kids put on a beautiful performance celebrating the African American culture and Dr. King's legacy in front of our community leaders. Way to go!
- Last, I want to thank our Roosevelt School of the Arts (RSA) staff, specifically Serena Rimorin, for bringing such high-quality opportunities to our RSA students. Let us watch a quick video of an amazing visitor and workshop our students took part in recently. To learn so closely from active Broadway performers is such an invaluable experience for our students. We love to see the Career Technical Education connection, especially through our arts programs!

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Levine: Recognized the tragic number of victims of mass shootings in California this past week and expressed heartfelt sorrow. Commented on the need for strong Congressional leaders to act. Acknowledged the pain felt from the stabbing outside at Fresno High School. Thanked Fresno High teachers and students who met with him to share ideas on how to move forward to address issues. Commented he has meet with district leadership to share ideas and will continue to work to address issues.

Clerk Wittrup: Congratulated Wendy McCulley for being recognized as a top influencer, locally. Requested staff move with urgency to address the bussing issue causing students at Computech to arrive late to school. Commented has not received an update regarding Wawona which was requested earlier in the month.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Referenced the high school science textbook adoption taking place and requested staff to be sure to include student feedback. Requested professional development be extended to food service staff. Requested a board communication pertaining an update on the expansion of the dual enrollment program. Commented Fresno City College (FCC) is offering a fire investigator academy and would like to see the district coordinate with FCC so students might participate.

Member Cazares: Requested follow up on request for Board retreat. Requested staff look at number of campus safety assistance assigned to schools and report back to Board the additional needs.

Member Davis: Requested a board communication updating the Board on Wawona. Provided shoutout to the district's governance team, and the focus on student outcomes. Provided shoutout to the Human Resources team. Requested staff to explore vaping detectors. Requested campus safety assistants be assigned to elementary schools located near public parks.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS - continued

Board President Islas: Expressed deep sorrow over mass shooting and loss of life at Monterey Park; in addition, expressed heartbreak for the farming community affected by a mass shooting. Congratulated Wendy McCulley on work for the Foundation. Congratulated staff of Nutrition Services for a great workshop; shared collaboration is when we work best. Celebrated the opening of Duncan's Medical Academy of Health and Science building. Shared several shout outs as follows: Ewing's school beautification project; Wishon's support of tradition and dance groups, Polynesian, Folkloric, Hmong; Wishon's improvement in iReady scores. Patino's business fair. Duncan's breakfast celebration for students achieving a 4.0 grade point average, Duncan has the highest FASTA applications in the state for a school its size.

Member Thomas: Shared three pillars of the community have passed away within the past two weeks, Nadar Ali, Verdell Newsome, and James Hendricks they will be deeply missed. Expressed thanks for their work and for paving the way for where she is today.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on the Consent Agenda.

For the record, Agenda Item A-6, APPROVE 2022/23 Classified Hourly, Classified Management 261 Duty Days, Supplemental Services Contracts Rates of Pay, and Extra Pay/Extra Services Salary Schedules was pulled from the agenda by staff and no action was taken on the item.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Consent Agenda, apart from Agenda Items A-6 which was pulled from the agenda by staff, and A-7, which was pulled by Board Members for further discussion, was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

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 January 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the January 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

A-4, APPROVE Budget Revision No. 3 for Fiscal Year 2022/23

APPROVED as recommended, Budget Revision No. 3 for fiscal year 2022/23.

A-5, APPROVE 2022/23 Certificated Management Salary Schedules and Movement of Incumbents for Current Principal I, Current Manager II/Principal I (Fulton School), and Current Manager II (Adult Transition Program) to Principal II

APPROVED as recommended, the 2022/23 Certificated Management Salary Schedules and Movement of Incumbents for Current Principal I, Current Manager II/Principal I (Fulton School), and Current Manager II (Adult Transition Program) to Principal II.

~~**A-6, APPROVE 2022/23 Classified Hourly, Classified Management 261 Duty Days, Supplemental Services Contracts Rates of Pay, and Extra Pay/Extra Services Salary Schedules**~~

ITEM PULLED BY STAFF. NO ACTION TAKEN.

A-7, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals 23-22, Fresh Bread Products with Site Delivery Services

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposals (RFP) 23-22, to provide fresh bread products with site delivery services served in the district's school meal programs.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-7. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas: Requested clarity as to what changed from previous Request for Proposal. Commented hoped options were diversified to provide healthy choices and exposure to new foods. Executive Director Harvey was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved Agenda Item A-7 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows:

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

A-8, DENY Claim GL22-1210-8219

DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by Mary H. Macias, case GL22-1210-8219.

A-9, RATIFY Agreement with Enome Inc.

RATIFIED as recommended, a five-year agreement with Enome Inc.

A-10, RATIFY Agreement with Leadership Associates

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with Leadership Associates to provide technical support for the use of California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS).

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-11, PRESENT and DISCUSS Highlights and Impact of Student Mentoring Programs

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-11.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-11. A summary is as follows:

Board President Islas: Commended all for their work and the opportunity for students.

Member Thomas: Thanked staff and students for their work. Expressed they are doing the work she loved doing as a teacher.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Requested clarity as to how to become a mentor. Expressed love for the work and requested to see metrics, trends, and outcomes of the program, specifically paid opportunity for students.

Member Cazares: Thanked staff for their work. Commented not only is it board members, but community members as well that have supported the work. Commented something that makes this Board unique is it comes from the community and works in the community. Thanked staff for having open mind to ideas brought forward by Board Members.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA-continued

Student Member Laus: Expressed gratitude to staff for work done in the community. Shared mentoring work uplifts and is at the heart of students and families, it empowers students to recognize their worth and interest. Expressed hope the district will continue to expand the reach of mentoring programs. Commented mentoring changes lives and brightens futures.

Member Levine: Thanked staff for the team they have built and the presentation. Reaffirmed the Board's commitment to the work and its expansion. Requested information from staff on creative ways to grow the program and reach more students.

Member Davis: Thanked staff for the work and asked if there are plans to expand the My Brother's Keeper program to elementary schools. Requested clarity as to time commitment, back-ground checks and training, and possibility of messaging in movie theaters.

Student Member Aquino: Expressed gratitude to students who take part in the mentoring program. Thanked other student leaders for their participation and leadership. Expressed expanding to the elementary schools will be beneficial as students are societies future leaders. Thanked students and staff of the program as seeing the staff and student connection is amazing.

Board Member Jonasson Rosas: Requested staff to explore the opportunity for program participation by departmental staff, those not based at a school site.

Board President Islas: Reiterated the idea of expanding the mentoring program and requested staff to notify the Board of needed resources to support expansion. Thanked students and staff for making this a reality.

Executive Director Persons was available to provide clarity.

B-12, PRESENT and DISCUSS Overview of Governor's 2023/24 Proposed State Budget

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-12.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-12. A summary is as follows:

Member Cazares: Requested clarity on the 3-year rolling average for daily attendance, specifically if there is a deadline for use.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA-continued

Member Levine: Requested clarity as to if revenues from Prop 28 will take effect in next budget year.

Member Davis: Requested clarity as to if Arts and Music revenues can be used for new hires. Requested clarity as to fieldtrips and how they are budgeted.

Board President Islas: Reiterated the need for a dedicated pipeline of recruitment to support the Arts and Music program and requested staff to provide a proposal. Commented on Early Education and the deficient of age-appropriate restrooms for early learning students. Commented on reinvested savings from an agreement with the Police Department to be used to bring in rooms like the bear cave to other campuses and the number of issues experienced merits how the district ensures every campus has a safe room where students can receive counseling. Commented on the need for automated gate improvements at all school sites. Requested clarity as to if staff are looking into root cause of continued decline in attendance. Requested clarity as to comprehensive literacy intervention, what is the baseline and plan to implement, and what are the desired outcomes. Commented on need to keep vice principals in place specifically sites facing challenges.

Interim Chief Financial Officer Jensen 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 15 requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name along with a summary of topic is listed as follows:

1. Andrew Fabela: Commented on school meals.
2. Alicia Crispin: Commented on concerns with administration at Jackson. Commented on concern of discrimination of special education students.
3. Steven Fabela: Commented on need to correct information shared on KMJ580 regarding school buses. Commented on challenges faced by bus drivers pertaining to school bus routes.
4. Leah L. Louthback: Commented on known challenges faced by bus drivers, working without a supervisor, and being put in negative positions. Commented the above challenges weigh heavily on drivers. Commented students will not show up to class with out bus drivers.
5. Nevaeh Garcia: Shared personal experience pertaining to outcome of social media post.

6. Joanna Henry: Shared discontent with the way the district treats employees and the well-being of students. Commented on concern Nevaeh's experience was blown out of proportion.
7. Julissa Lopez: Read speech on behalf of Diana Alvarez a member of the Fresno High School Social Justice Club addressing a recent incident at Fresno High School and school safety. Provided Board Members a petition signed by Fresno High School students and staff.
8. Anoush Ekparkian: Acknowledged we are on Yokuts land. Commented on lockdowns at Fresno High School. Commented on the need for safety measures to be expedited; specifically, more cameras and campus safety assistants, and safety training for substitute teachers.
9. Amy Kohl: Commented on safety concerns faced by students and staff of Fresno High School. Shared special education students witnessed the violence last week. Requested a fence to act as a deterrent, one not easily jumped, requested additional resources to help with social emotional needs.
10. Jose Solorio: Commented on public safety concerns of schools, all deserve to thrive in a safe environment, the Board should not move forward until fences are secure, the need for more mental health counselors; and to allocate resources to the right areas.
11. Jose Sandoval: Commented gate at Fresno High School was left unguarded and unlocked just two days after stabbing, asked what this tells staff and students. Asked what we are ready to do today for students, so they do not go to class worrying about being stabbed. Requested campus safety assistants be made permanent.
12. Josselyn Sandoval: Commented as Senior Class President at Fresno High and provided information from safety survey sent to students. Shared student request for more safety cameras. Shared student concerns with quality of campus safety assistants, with administration being concerned for student safety, and monitoring of gates. Requested Board Members to evaluate concerns.
13. Cordele Swinten: Commented it is sad when a student is more afraid to attend school than to be on the street. Commented on the need for new and better trained campus safety assistants. Commented students and staff want to feel safe and asked how that can be ensured.
14. Peter Beck: Commented on gate at Fresno High School being left open and unsupervised. Commented special education picks up students at the gate. Commented on need for more campus safety assistants as the layout of Fresno High School is different than that of other schools. Requested action.
15. Brandi Nuse Villegas: Thanked students who shared tonight. Commented in support of students' teachers and community requesting non-law enforcement options to address issues; specifically, more campus safety assistants, working cameras, appropriate training, sufficient social emotional supports. Commented on importance of arts programs.

For the record, Board President Islas provided a statement as follows:

“As we close, I just want to make a statement to say that our inability to have a discussion right now is really driven by mandates about having something that is not agenized. Please do not interpret that as disinterest or a lack of follow up or action that we as a Board intend to do on this subject. So, I just want to reassure you that things are moving, and I appreciate all the comments that were made tonight. As someone who believe deeply in prevention, I hear you and my heart is full with all of the sentiment around moving to prevention and less intervention. Thank you.”

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:45 p.m.