



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
February 08, 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 February 08, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present.

Board President Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

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

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 5:40 p.m.

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

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

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:04 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Maiyer Vang to Executive Director (General) of the Parent Involvement Office, 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 Member Levine led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- First, our teams have worked to address and rectify the transportation issues at Computech Middle School. This week all buses have been on time, except one which was caused by a malfunctioning gate at CART delaying the students' route. Even with that delay, the bus still made it to campus before the first bell. We are grateful to our transportation team, our bus drivers, dispatchers, and our labor partners for working together to adjust routes and form a routing committee that will review bus routes every month moving forward.
- We know there are also concerns with bus routes serving students receiving specialized services. These routes are more complex than general bus routes as they include door-to-door pick-ups and drop-offs, and they are serving students from across the district. For context, we have 124 routes serving our students receiving specialized services versus 69 general bus routes. Our transportation partner, First Student, has worked hard to recover from the pandemic and school closures by increasing their starting wages and increasing their recruitment efforts. We will continue working with First Student collaboratively to continue improving those routes.
- I want to thank our Information Technology (IT) team – this last week the IT team completed the rollout of the Promethean board at all middle schools! Now every elementary and middle school classroom has a 75” interactive panel with high-definition sound and display with a mounted Windows computer. The Promethean pilot in high school classrooms begins next month.
- Congratulations to Duncan students Karen Vathanaphong and Oscar Vazquez as they were selected to participate in the 2023 Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Flight Academy Program. They are two of 200 students selected across all high school Air Force JROTC programs which include 105,000 cadets, and Karen and Oscar stood out amongst the 1,300 applicants across the nation. The Air Force Aim High Flight Academy is now in its fifth year, and they have graduated over 1,000 high school students earning their private pilot license. During the summer, Karen and Oscar will work with certified FAA flight instructors to practice takeoffs and landings, cross-country solo flights, emergency procedures, and radio communication protocols with airfield personnel and dissimilar aircraft. Finally, they will need to complete ground school, take a solo flight, and pass the FAA written exam before they are awarded their Private Pilot License. Karen and Oscar will also earn college credit as they complete their 8-week training! Congratulations Karen and Oscar, we are so proud of you!
- Saturday, Baird and Figarden went head-to-head in the annual Minecraft eSports tournament. After a close and exciting competition, Baird won the championship and will move on to play Curro South Africa for the international title. Congratulations to all our Minecraft eSports competitors, and Baird for winning the title for the second year in a row.
- Last week we had the pleasure of celebrating our Excellence in Education finalists and announcing the six winners! The event was great, but the energy of over 700 Fresno Unified family members in the house cheering one another on was even better! I want to say congratulations to all finalists and congratulate our six winners:

HEAR Report from Superintendent-continued

- Department Administrator of the Year – Tumani Heights of Project ACCESS,
 - Classified Employee of the Year – Cathy Lopez of Roosevelt High School,
 - Elementary School Educator of the Year – Emmelin Herrera of Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School,
 - Middle School Educator of the Year – Jessica Matoian of Sequoia Middle School,
 - High School Educator of the Year – Kyra Orgill of Fresno High School, and
 - Administrator of the Year – Abraham Olivares of Fort Miller Middle School.
- This week is National School Counseling Week! We are so grateful to our counselors across the district for all they do! We have a quick video from Nancy Witrado, Director of College and Career Readiness to recognize this week and provide gratitude.
 - February is Black History Month! We kicked the month off with our 9th Annual Edison Region Black History Month Program! Our students rocked the house at Roosevelt's Audra MacDonald Theater in front of a large crowd of Fresno Unified staff, families, and community partners. Thank you to all who made the 9th annual program a success! In addition to our annual Black History Month program, we have so many amazing learning opportunities and celebrations happening across the district in honor of Black History Month. Through a collaboration of our Black Student Unions, our Curriculum Instruction and Professional Learning team, and our Communications team, hundreds of students from Thomas Elementary got to see L. Kobie Da Wiz in action and went home with two of his books! This Saturday, our Ethnic Studies team, and Parent University team, will be taking almost 350 parents, students, and staff members on a trip to Allensworth! Allensworth was the first town in California to be founded, financed, and governed by African Americans. This is just a small example of the amazing things happening across the district as we celebrate and recognize Black History Month in February.
 - I want to take a moment to invite Ms. Wendy McCulley to the podium to share some well-deserved recognition from our Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Jonasson Rosas: Requested information pertaining to Wellness Committee vacancies, specifically School Health Advisory Counselors. Referenced a board communication regarding World Language Textbook Adoption and requested a workshop or presentation regarding the expansion of language offerings to share with the community.

Member Levine: Thanked Fort Miller Middle School for lifting the need of washer and dryer units to help support basic needs of students. Commented if a student's basic hygienic needs are not met it can contribute to student attendance issues

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS – continued

and even the student’s ability to focus while at school. Encouraged staff and fellow board members to keep in mind when discussing the district budget.

Member Davis: Congratulated Lisa Mitchell on great job putting together the 9th Annual Black History Month program and shared how proud she was of student board members for their participation. Shared shoutout to Sunnyside and Bullard for the Safe Kids award. Commented on attending the Academic Decathlon and requested district staff to reach out to Fresno County Office of Education in hopes of providing an opportunity for more student participation.

Clerk Wittrup: Thanked and expressed appreciation for fellow trustees, executive cabinet members and student board members. Commented on the supportiveness of the group to problem solve to provide the best for students. Recognized there are often cultural barriers to progress often witnessed in school districts and referenced one within Fresno Unified: A reluctance to respond to requests for board communications and progress updates, quickly and accurately with specific information needed so board members may make informed decisions. Commented, personally has requested from the dais, detailed information regarding Wawona multiple times and has yet to receive the information. Commented, a cultural mindset specific to Fresno Unified that needs to change is one of sanitizing information so it sounds more positive and ignoring information requested. Commented the correct mindset should be urgency orientation for open communication.

For the record, Clerk Wittrup motioned to set a ten day turn around for requested board communications and if more than ten days is needed a progress communication is to be provided that will include when the complete information will be available.

For the record, Legal Counsel Martin did not recommend a motion on this agenda space as in his opinion it would be inappropriate from a Brown Act standpoint. Legal Counsel Martin suggested changes along this line should take the approach of the Bylaw amendment process. Legal Counsel Martin reiterated it would be improper to motion, second and vote on this issue at this time.

For the record, Clerk Wittrup asked what could be done, without going through another bureaucratic process, to get board communications with the specific information requested in a time which would allow trustees to make informed decisions.

For the record, Chief of Staff O’Connor suggested this topic be brought to the board bylaw subcommittee which is meeting this week. Legal Counsel Martin agreed the board bylaw subcommittee is the better place to address this issue, rather than approach from an ad hoc position.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS – continued

For the record, Board President Islas requested clarity as to if item going to the board bylaw subcommittee would leave enough time for item to be placed on agenda. Chief of Staff O'Connor provided clarity.

Member Cazares: Commented board communication timelines were added to Board Bylaws several years ago and welcomes the opportunity to revisit again with the board bylaw subcommittee, thanked Clerk Wittrup for bringing item to the attention of the Board. Referenced comment of Trustee Jonasson Rosas regarding a request for a presentation on the dual language immersion program and suggested a marketing campaign for all middle and high school programs with offerings beyond the traditional school program.

Board President Islas: Shared support of Clerk Wittrup's comments pertaining to board communications. Expanded further on Member Cazares' comment pertaining to marketing campaign; commented parents do not always receive information in their home language or a format they can readily appreciate. Commented Fresno Adult School's enrollment needs to be bolstered and a marketing campaign would help. Shared shout out to Excellence in Education nominees and recipients. Congratulated those involved with the Black History Month program. Shared shout out to McLane's Hmong Dance Group who participated in the celebration for Oakland's Mayor Sheng Thao. Shared shout out to McLane students for their initiative in organizing a McLane Closet event.

Shared frustration and concern pertaining to the continuing risk of injury to students when they ride bikes or walk to and from school. Requested a board communication regarding the district's plans that are in action to help address safety risks to students. Commented we all want to protect students and there are safety issues beyond authority and control of the Board pertaining to infrastructure needs around schools. Shared frustration pertaining to response from colleagues at the City and County in trying to address investments to protect students, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, lights, and signals. Shared a call for help to address safety concerns.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Shared support of Clerk Wittrup's comments pertaining board communications. Expanded further on Member Cazares' comment pertaining to marketing campaign and referenced college recruitment videos that show culture of campuses; she recommends something similar.

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-9, APPROVE Agreement with Koff & Associates was pulled from the agenda by staff and no action was taken on the item.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Consent Agenda, apart from Agenda Items A-9 which was pulled from the agenda by staff, and A-5, A-6, A-14, A-16, and A-21, which were 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-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 25, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the January 18, 2023, Board Workshop and the January 25, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

A-4, ADOPT Resolution 23-13, Authorizing Submittal of Grant Applications and Execution of Agreements to Implement Projects from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Programs

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution 23-13.

A-5, APPROVE Amendment to the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Academic Calendars to Recognize Juneteenth as a District Holiday

APPROVED as recommended, an amendment to the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Academic Calendar to Recognize Juneteenth (June 19th) as a District Holiday.

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

Member Thomas: Commented it is exciting to see Juneteenth recognized; this is a holiday which commemorates the emancipation of Black people. Shared this holiday has been highly celebrated by Black people since around 1866 and is sometimes called Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, and Freedom Day, it is a happy

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

time. Shared, there is a joke that African Americans were given February the month with the least number of days, so they may decide to take a whole year and celebrate every other year. Shared congratulations to Lisa Mitchell for the Black History Month program.

Board President Islas: Recognized Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021 and California passed it in September 2022 and how crucial it is to acknowledge this investment of programs in support of African American History Month; especially as we live in a time where there is dismantling of investments.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board President Davis, the Board approved Agenda Item A-5 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

A-6, APPROVE Position and ADOPT Job Description Executive Chef and APPROVE Revision to the Classified Management 261 Duty Days Salary Schedule for Executive Chef

APPROVED and ADOPTED as recommended, the job description of Executive Chef and the Classified Management 261 Duty Days Salary Schedule with Executive Chef placement on E-20.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-6. A summary is as follows:

Board President Islas: Shared celebration for this item as school meals is an area in which families have shared the district needs to improve; this position is in direct response to family feedback regarding school meals. Requested clarity as to how long until position is filled. Requested clarity as to number of Executive Chef verses number of Regional Chefs. Chief Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

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

A-7, APPROVE 2022/23 Classified Hourly, Classified Food Services Hourly, Classified Management 261 Duty Days, Supplemental Services Contracts Rates of Pay, and Extra Pay/Extra Services Salary Schedules

APPROVED as recommended, the 2022/23 Classified Hourly, Classified Food Services Hourly, Classified Management 261 Duty Days, Supplemental Services Contracts Rates of Pay, and Extra Pay/Extra Services Salary Schedules.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

A-8, APPROVE Agreement with Adventure Education Solutions Inc. Ski/Snowboard and Rock-climbing League

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Adventure Education Solutions Inc. Ski/Snowboard and Rock-Climbing League.

~~**A-9, APPROVE Agreement with Koff & Associates**~~
ITEM PULLED BY STAFF. NO ACTION TAKEN.

A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Recruitment Alley
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Recruitment Alley.

A-11, APPROVE Amendment to Agreement with Taylor English Duma, LLP
APPROVED as recommended, an amendment with Taylor English Duma, LLP.

A-12, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Supplemental Healthcare Agency
APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with Supplemental Healthcare Agency.

A-13, APPROVE Grant Applications to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Awards and the Execution of Grant Agreements
APPROVED as recommended, the submission of grant applications to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for the New Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchase Program; authorizing the acceptance of grant awards and the execution of grant agreements if awarded funds.

A-14, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals 23-24, Executive Chef Services
APPROVED as recommended, Request for Proposals (RFP) 23-24, to select a qualified vendor to provide executive chef services.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-14. A summary is as follows:

Board President Islas: Requested clarity as to number of Regional Chefs and location of placement. Executive Director Harvey was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved Agenda Item A-14 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

A-15, DENY Claim GL22-0919-7612
DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by Arlet Rodarte, case GL22-0919-7612.

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

A-16, RATIFY Early Learning Department Expansion Funds to California Department of Social Services General Child Care and Development Program

RATIFIED as recommended, Early Learning Department Applications to California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR) Expansions Funds for Fiscal Year 2022/23.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-16. A summary is as follows:

Member Davis: Shared excitement and support of this item as resources will add additional seats for attendance of children from birth to age 3.

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

A-17, RATIFY Third Amendment to Lease Agreement for Property Located at 850 N. Blackstone Avenue

RATIFIED as recommended, the third amendment to the lease agreement with Specific Properties, LLC for the building located at 850 N. Blackstone Avenue in Fresno, which houses Parent University and Human Resources Fingerprinting.

A-18, RATIFY Change Orders

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

- Bid 21-34, Ventura and 10th South Campus Site and Tenant Improvements for Buildings C and D
Change Order 8 (South Campus Site) presented for ratification \$51,144
Change Order 8 (Tenant Improvements) presented for ratification \$3,801
- Bid 21-42 Section B, Edison High School Athletic Field Improvements
Change Order 3 presented for ratification \$12,549
- Bid 21-42 Section C, Sunnyside High School Athletic Field Improvements
Change Order 3 presented for ratification \$13,752
- Bid 22-21, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus
Change Order 2 presented for ratification \$127,097
- Bid 22-28, Ventura and 10th Site and Parking Lot Improvements Phase II
Change Order 2 presented for ratification \$51,320

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

- Bid 22-34, Edison High School Multipurpose Room and Classroom Improvements
Change Order 1 presented for ratification \$21,582
Change Order 2 presented for ratification \$38,391
- Formal Quote, Education Center Restroom Remodel
Change Order 2 presented for ratification \$12,844

A-19, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for the following projects, which have been completed according to plans and specifications.

- Bid 21-42 Sections B and C, Edison, and Sunnyside High School Athletic Field Improvements
- Formal Quote, Education Center Restroom Remodel

A-20, RATIFY Purchase Orders from November 01, 2022 through November 30, 2022 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from November 01, 2022 through November 30, 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 apart from 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-21, RATIFY Purchase Orders from November 01, 2022 through November 30, 2022 – Supplemental Report

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

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

“Agenda item A-21 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-21 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.

For these reasons, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

A. CONSENT AGENDA - continued

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved Agenda Item A-21 by a vote of 6-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSTENTION: Board Member Levine.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

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

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

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

C-22, RECEIVE Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws

Included in the Board binders is a proposed revision for the following Board Bylaw (BB) 9323 Meeting Conduct.

C-23, RECEIVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies

Included in the Board binders are proposed revisions for the following three Board Policies (BP) 0420 School Based Management Site Councils Coordinated Programs; BP 6170.1 Transitional Kindergarten; BP 7160 Charter School Facilities (NEW).

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 6:58 p.m.