

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Fresno, California

March 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 March 08, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. Deputy Superintendent Her was present and sat in for Superintendent Dr. Nelson as he was absent due to illness.

Board President Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:31 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Thomas arrived at 5:05 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas arrived at 5:15 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received twenty-one (21) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name along with summary of topic is as follows:

- 1. Peter Beck: New teacher support and retention.
- 2. Tamara Smith: Shared due to a contractual error a behavior technician was removed from the school and shared how the removal has impacted Fort Miller.
- 3. Deynesha Thomas: Commented on the punishment system at Fresno High School and how it is not working. Shared ideas for student support systems.
- 4. Jessica Cox: Commented on multiple needs at Fremont as follows: restroom improvements, building upgrades, enhanced security, and substantial number of students assigned to classrooms.
- 5. Mark Romero: Commented on the value of smaller class sizes.
- 6. Chrysann Johnston: Shared concerns regarding issues of fear at Homan Elementary. Commented on proposal provided to the district by the Fresno Teachers Association.
- 7. Junior Romero: Commented on safety concerns at Fresno High School. Requested resources and training for campus safety assistants.
- 8. Camila Martinez Pimentel: Camila shared as the Vice President of the Latino Interact Club at Fresno High. Shared importance of an improved learning environment at Fresno High School. Referenced a way to improve

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items-continued

is to implement better student support structures. Shared ideas for structures.

- 9. Jiovanni Ordonez: Jiovanni shared as the President of the Latino Interact Club at Fresno High School. Commented on the importance of recruiting highly trained employees specifically campus safety assistants.
- 10. Andrew Colburn: Read letter on behalf of parent regarding request for smaller class sizes.
- 11. Nathaniel Mortimer: Requested more funding for training of campus safety assistants.
- 12. Jennifer Lee: Shared reasons Jennifer does not feel valued and empowered.
- 13. Amy Kohl: Invited Board members to try different jobs within the district for a day. Commented on different situations faced by bus drivers.
- 14. Jason Isaac: Shared story of a colleague assaulted by a student in the classroom.
- 15. James Dunn: Would like the Board to address policies that do not allow administration to have consequences for student actions.
- 16. Rita Keledjian: Requested additional supports for Freshman specifically those with Individualized Education Programs and Behavior Plans. Requested equal access to content.
- 17. Emily Baslee: Commented as a student at Fresno High, Emily does not feel safe at school and shared reasons why.
- 18. Jaylynn Chavira: Commented as a student at Fresno High, Jaylynn does not feel safe at school and shared reasons why.
- 19. Leslie Prado: Commented as a student at Fresno High School and referenced the need for better trained campus safety assistants. Commented student safety is not a want but a need.
- 20. Manual Bonilla: Commented on safety issues and accountability issues within the district and provided an invitation for authentic conversations between the Fresno Teachers Association and the Board.
- 21. Debbie Acosta: Commented on shortages of employees in custodial and transportation positions and feels a contributing factor is surrounding districts are paying higher wages.
- 22. Adrian Villalobos: Commented as Vice President of SEIU Chapter 521 and how the Union is trying to negotiate with the district for better wages to be more competitive throughout the Central Valley.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:15 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:30 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:50 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 7:00 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:01 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Clerk Wittrup, the Board acted in Closed Session to non-reelect three probationary teachers at the conclusion of the 2022/23 school year, and to authorize the Superintendent or his Designee to give the affected employees notice of the Board's action by a vote of 7-0-00 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Isas.
- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in Closed Session to reassign a management employee at the conclusion of the 2022/23 school year, and to authorize the Superintendent or his Designee to give the affected employee notice of the Board's action by the following vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Witrrup, and Board President Islas.

For the record, the Workers' Compensation Settlement item for Vernell Bynum, Case Number 2012-0660; and the Workers' Compensation Settlement item for Diane Landresse, Case Number WC21-1102-6104, were acted on by the Board at the February 22, 2023, Board of Education meeting but were not reported out in Open Session.

- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Wittrup the Board acted in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Vernell Bynum, Case Number 2012-0660, 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 Thomas, seconded by Board Member Levine the Board acted in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Diane Landresse, Case Number WC21-1102-6104, by a 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

Patrick Jensen led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

The Board heard comments/reports from Student Board Representatives from J.E. Young High School.

HEAR Report from Deputy Superintendent

- Superintendent Nelson is out ill and I am honored to fill in for him tonight.
- Time is almost up to complete the Spring Climate and Culture Survey! By answering just a few questions, you will help Fresno Unified School District and your school learn what we are doing well, what needs to improve, and how we are doing when it comes to achieving the district's mission, vision, and goals. This is a quick and easy way to ensure your voice is heard, as you are a valued partner in our students' education. Do not miss this chance to share important feedback! We want to hear from as many families as possible as well as our staff who spend at least 50% of their time at school sites. Head to www.fresnounified.org now to complete the survey.
- With the start of a new month, enrollment for Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten for the next school year is now open! If your child turns five on or before September 1 this year, they are eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten. If your child turns five between September 2 and April 2, they are eligible to be enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten. Those early foundations are critical to your student's academic success, so do not wait, enroll today! You can learn more by heading to our website or contacting your neighborhood elementary school.
- I would like to call out the work of several staff members that came together to explore how we might better meet the needs of our middle school students by providing each campus with a washer and dryer. You may recall Trustee Levine first surfaced this issue a few meetings ago by highlighting the efforts of Fort Miller to raise funds to replace their washer and dryer. It became apparent how critical the washer and dryer were to the campus and this initiated a district-wide assessment. I am happy to say last week, it was determined that a washer and dryer will now be baseline equipment for middle school sites moving forward. Middle schools will soon receive information regarding the replacement and repair cycle, but we wanted to say thank you tonight to the team that quickly came together for this assessment and rollout plan.
- Huge congratulations to our soccer teams at McLane High School! Both teams finished as CIF section champions after a season of hard work and dedication! We are so proud of you all enjoy your titles! Congrats also go out to Edison High School senior Caiden "Amir" Johnson who placed 7th in the CIF State Wrestling Championships! Way to go! One more congratulations out to our top 3 spellers in the district first in-person elementary spelling bee since 2020! The winner was Samantha Tanalgo from Manchester GATE, second place was Mateo Ortega-Arredondo from Bakman, and third place was Ian Trevino from Columbia. Congratulations all and good luck to Samantha and Mateo as they represent Fresno Unified at the Fresno County Spell-Off on March 21!
- A quick shoutout to the team and students at both Ayer Elementary and Bullard High School who have recently partnered with the Central California Food Bank to provide food box distributions for their families and surrounding communities! It is examples like these where we see our district goals in action by our staff and students. Thank you to both teams for working to increase student engagement in their schools and communities!

HEAR Report from Deputy Superintendent – continued

- In honor of Read Across America Week, our trustees, leaders across the district, and community leaders flowed into our schools to read to our students and celebrate the importance of literacy! Since our fearless leader could not be here tonight, we will take the opportunity to show off his passion for Read Across America!
- Superintendent Nelson always has a blast reading to our students, but it is not just Read Across America week for him – it is about literacy. You will hear more over the coming months, but Bob is on a mission when it comes to reading and literacy for our students! Thank you to all our trustees and leaders who have taken time to be with our students and highlight the importance of reading.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Jonasson Rosas: Requested a call with information pertaining to the First Responder Career Camp, specifically lifeguard certification and student recruitment. Requested an update on the expansion of the Early Learning program. Requested if student recognition ceremony could be revisited. Thanked bus drivers for going above and beyond. Requested information as to if the district has a checklist for student gear/clothing for students participating in winter camp.

Member Levine: Reaffirmed the great news of adding washers and dryers to middle school campuses and thanked those involved in the assessment work to make it happen. Commented it is an example of the Board and district responding to a basic core need for students. Provided shout out to Fort Miller, specifically Culture and Climate Director, Eric Calderon, who organized a fundraiser to purchase the washer and dryer. Trustee Levine commented the fundraiser was a great idea, but it highlighted for Trustee Levine that the district should provide basic supports and services to students as lack of laundry services was causing students to miss school. Expressed hope as budget discussions begin, consideration is given for other basic holistic student needs such as hygiene products and clothing, alternatives to transportation, hopes to dig in and look further. Shared excitement for an agreement with RSS Consulting firm that, if approved, will help the district plan for the next Bond with site equity upfront.

Member Davis: Thanked bus drivers for their work. Shared about her participation in Read Across America.

Member Cazares: Congratulated McLane High School Boys Varsity Soccer, in Member Cazares' opinion they were the best team, the team had particularly good character and it was evident the coach and team put in many hours training. Thanked and congratulated Hoover High School Vice Principal Daniel Bardona on retirement, expressed appreciation for work in the district. Thanked women in honor of National Women's Day.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS-continued

Clerk Wittrup: Congratulated the Bullard High School Cheerleaders for receiving second place at the State Championship. Thanked Bullard students, staff, and community for giving up a Saturday to distribute food from the new Bullard Pantry.

Board President Islas: Provided shout out in honor of National Women's Day to colleagues on dais, staff, and young women for their excellence, for continuing to break glass ceilings and push boundaries, feels collectively women are shaping the world for the better. Shout out to McLane Highlander's, the Girls won the Division VI Valley Championship with Coach David Alvarez, Boys' won the Division III Championship with Eric Rodriguez. Shout out to Turner Tigers beginning softball and track. Additionally, Turner will have a mural developed by Jay Esquivel. Shout out to Hidalgo Eagles for hosting the Special Olympics from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 21, 2023, with special invite to Board colleagues to participate in the opening ceremonies at 9:20 a.m. Hidalgo had artwork featured at ArtHop, by Ms. Metzler's class. Shout out to Duncan as eight students received placement into Fresno City College nurses' program that only admits twenty students a year. Duncan with 97.1% applications completed was third in the state for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Duncan's Airforce Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps students exceeded their visit from headquarters.

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-4 and A-23, 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 February 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

- A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the February 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
- A-4, ADOPT Resolution Proclaiming April 2023 Autism Acceptance Month ADOPTED as recommended, a resolution proclaiming April 2023 as Autism Acceptance Month.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-4. A summary is as follows:

Clerk Wittrup: Recognized special education teachers, psychologists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, adaptive physical education teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, and parents who are incredibly dedicated in support of students with autism. Commented, the resolution tells of early interventions provided by the district that are life changing. Expressed appreciation for all those involved in service to children with autism.

Additionally, expressed concern with a resolution where words and actions do not align. Commented the words within the resolution are supportive but are window dressings if actions and practices are not aligned. Requested administrators to look at creating boundaries around autism programs to protect the space. Commented, this is done by not infringing on staff already hard-working, by limiting class size, by not adding extra work to psychologists and others working with students in program. Commented when space is not protected it erodes services and changes student outcomes. Provided a reminder to district leadership to protect and appropriately staff the program.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved Agenda Item A-4, 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-5, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Bilingual Cross-Cultural, Language and Development Authorization

ADOPTED as recommended, Variable Term Waivers for the Bilingual Crosscultural Language and Development (BCLAD) Authorization.

- A-6, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Career Technical Education Credential Holders ADOPTED as recommended, Variable Term Waivers for Career Technical Education teachers, who need the English Learner Authorization until their credential is cleared.
- A-7, APPROVE Provisional Internship Permits APPROVED as recommended, Provisional Internship Permit recommendations to rehire or hire upon Board approval.
- A-8, APPROVE Graduation Agreements for the Class of 2023 APPROVED as recommended, four agreements and tentative schedules for the Class of 2023 graduation ceremonies.
- A-9, APPROVE Agreement with MGT of America to Conduct Facility Conditions Assessments of All Schools

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with MGT of America to conduct facility conditions assessments of all district schools.

A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. to provide a comprehensive classification and compensation study for 32 broad management job classifications, approximately 135 job descriptions within those broad classifications and approximately 367 positions.

A-11, APPROVE Purchase and Sale Agreement and Escrow Instructions for Property Located at 2011 Fresno Street, aka 1212 Fulton Street and 2015 Fresno Street

APPROVED as recommended, is the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Escrow Instructions for property located at 2011 Fresno Street, aka 1212 Fulton Street and 2015 Fresno Street.

- A-12, APPROVE Amended Agreement with Wonder Valley Outdoor Education APPROVED as recommended, an amended agreement with Wonder Valley Outdoor Education Center.
- A-13, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building, and Interim Housing APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building, and Interim Housing.
- A-14, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-26A and REJECT Bid 23-26B, Unit Ventilators and Heat Pumps for HVAC Projects APPROVED and REJECTED as recommended, information on Bid 23-26, Unit

Ventilators and Heat Pumps for HVAC Projects, to establish a fixed unit price for the purchase of HVAC equipment, including unit ventilators and heat pump units for use district wide. Section B: Staff recommends rejection based on substituted equipment that did not meet required specifications or were not deemed best value to the district.

- A-15, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-31, Kisling Building Modernization APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 23-31, Kisling Building Modernization.
- A-16, APPROVE Request for Qualifications and Proposals 23-12, Design-Build Services

APPROVED as recommended, a Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQP) 23-12, Design-Build Services.

- A-17, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaw APPROVED as recommended, a proposed revision for Board Bylaw 9005 Governance Standards.
- A-18, DENY Claim GL22-0912-8449 DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by Rodney A. Branch, case GL22-0912-8449.
- A-19, DENY Claim GL23-0120-8385 DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by Daniel White, case GL23-0120-8385.
- A-20, RATIFY Agreement with Early Learning Department and Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with Early Learning and Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, who was awarded Early Educator Teacher Development Grant funding by the California Department of Education, in combination with the California Pre-kindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant.

- A-21, RATIFY Grant Application to the 2023 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program RATIFIED as recommended, a grant application to the 2023 Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program (FFVP) through the California Department of Education.
- A-22, RATIFY Purchase Orders from December 01, 2022 through December 31, 2022 Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from December 01, 2022 through December 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 except for 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-23, RATIFY Purchase Orders from December 01, 2022 through December 31, 2022 – Supplemental Report

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

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

"Agenda item A-23 on tonight's Consent Agenda contains purchase orders for California State University, Fresno Downing Planetarium and 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 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."

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved Agenda Item A-23 by a vote of 6-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSTENSTIONS: Board Member Levine.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

For the record, the Board agreed to move Agenda Item B-26 to first item of Conference and Discussion Agenda.

B-26, PRESENT and DISCUSS the First Chicanx Latinx High School Recognition Celebration

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-26. A summary is as follows:

Member Davis: Commented on the beautiful presentation. Requested neighboring communities be provided an opportunity to contribute funds for the event.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA-continued

Member Jonasson Rosas: Expressed appreciation for the opportunity provided to meet with students. Commended group on work completed thus far. Requested clarity as to if students had begun conversations with adults in the system.

Member Aquino: Commented on being absolutely blown away with project, finds it phenomenal that student leaders of color are representing the community and leaving a legacy for those that follow.

Member Cazares: Thanked students for providing the opportunity to attend meetings. Shared happiness to support this program. Shared from personal experience when graduating from college only attended the Latino graduation ceremony so parents could understand

Member Thomas: Go Tigers! Proud of work students are doing.

Member Levine: Shared students have full support of the Board. Blown away by their leadership, presentation, and innovation. Impressed that three of the presenters are sophomores as it represents students looking ahead, not only for themselves but others as well. Requested clarity as to if the students have considered having the program streamed online for those not able to attend in person.

President Islas: Thanked students for their leadership, the presentation, having the tenacity to bring this item forward.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received one request to address the Board on Agenda Item B-26. The individual's name along with summary of topic is as follows:

1. Miguel Arias: Congratulated the students presenting the item and commented on their commitment to moving the item forward. Shared from personal experience of not being allowed to speak Spanish or celebrate culture when at school. Thanked the Board for allowing students to present their proposal and shared that everyone should be made to feel they have a place.

B-24, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2022/23 Second Interim Financial Report

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-24.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-24. A summary is as follows:

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA-continued

Member Thomas: Requested clarity as to a utility increase and asked if solar panels are helping with utility costs.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Clerk Wittrup, the Board approved Agenda Item A-23 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

B-25, DISCUSS and APPROVE the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Ballot

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-25.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-25. A summary is as follows:

Member Thomas: Expressed support for incumbents Daniel Babshoff and G. Brandon Vang.

Member Davis: Expressed support for all four candidates listed on ballot.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved to vote for all four candidates (Daniel Babshoff, Joshua Sellers, Constance Schlaefer, and G. Brandon Vang) on the California School Boards Association Official 2023 Delegate Assembly Ballot, by a vote of 6-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSTENSTIONS: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

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 five (5) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name along with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Gabriel Castro: Commented on the importance of retaining trained bus drivers. Requested bus drivers be hired and paid a competitive wage and requested cleaning supplies to sanitize buses.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS-continued

- 2. Corina Lozoya: Commented, everything bus drivers do is for the kids. Shared concerns of not receiving a living wage, of being over-worked, not receiving support with student behavior issues, and other stressors of the job. Requested to be paid what is deserved, specifically with CHP licensing requirements. Requested a livable wage.
- 3. Samantha Trass: Thanked the Board for recognizing (earlier in the evening) what bus drivers do and invited the Board to come ride a bus route. Commented on disrespect and abuse faced by bus drivers. Shared concern that bus drivers feel they are not supported.
- 4. Steven Fabela: Commented on a law pertaining to the authority of the driver. Requested Board/District to review policies and procedures that conflict with said law.
- 5. Alicia Crispin: Shared several concerns pertaining to incidents at Jackson Elementary School; specially dealing with the principal, vice principal, and child's teacher. Shared concerns have been discussed several times with district leadership.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:30 p.m.