



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – MARCH 31, 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
S-2 Teresa Plascencia Council of the Great City Schools 2023 Legislative and Policy Conference
S-3 Ambra O'Connor Spring Break Office Closure

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Interim Chief Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for March 23, 2023

INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Dr. Natasha Baker, Chief Officer

ID-1 Edith Navarro State Seal of Civic Engagement
ID-2 Edith Navarro The New Teacher Project Good to Great Summer Coaching
ID-3 Edith Navarro Ethnic Studies, Cohort II 2023, Summer Foundational Training Institute
ID-4 Edith Navarro History-Social Science Lecture Series

OPERATIONAL SERVICES – Paul Idsvoog, Chief Officer

OS-1 Deana Clayton Renewal of Exemption from the Definition of School Building for J.E. Young Academic Center and Fulton Special Education Program

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: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Attended the Principal's Meeting
- Met with the Packard Foundation to discuss update on the Starting Smart and Strong Initiative
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Gave interview with Kim Stephens, FOX 26, regarding safety at Fresno High School
- Attended the DMGroup 20th Superintendent Strategy Summit and present a session regarding AROI


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 03/31/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Teresa Plascencia
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3736

Regarding: Council of the Great City Schools 2023 Legislative and Policy Conference

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of the notable highlights from the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) Conference:

- Attended the CGCS Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 18-21, 2023
 - This annual conference is a gathering of the nation's urban school leaders; superintendents, school board members, and legislative directors. The focus is on education legislation, funding, and policies.
 - District participants included, Board Members Valerie Davis, Susan Wittrup and Government Relations Executive Director, Teresa Plascencia
- Participated in federal legislative and policy updates led by:
 - US Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
 - US House Committee on Education and the Workforce
 - US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
- Attended CGCS briefings on federal education
- Received an update from Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education
- Key topics covered a wide range of subject areas, including, but not limited to:
 - Federal K-12 Funding in Federal FY 2024
 - Census Data and Title 1 Funding Updates
 - School Safety
 - Mental Health
 - Child Nutrition Programs
- Met with Fresno Unified School District's U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and provided district updates such as, ESSER spending, Mental Health and Nutrition programs
- A full copy of the conference agenda can be found at <https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/22/Agenda%202023%20CGCS%20Legislative%20Conference.pdf>


If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Teresa Plascencia at 457-3736.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 03/31/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-3

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ambra O'Connor, Chief of Staff
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3838

Regarding: Spring Break Office Closure

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information on planned office closures during the Spring Break.

The Board Office and Superintendent's Office will be closed to the public during the week of Spring Break and will reopen on Monday, April 10, 2023. Board Packets will not be delivered during Spring Break and regular packet delivery will resume on Monday, April 10, 2022.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Ambra O'Connor at 457-3838.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. _____



Date: 03/31/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: March 31, 2023

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive 
Cabinet Approval: 

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for March 23, 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 March 23, 2023 is attached and includes the following articles:

- Despite Lurking Financial Crisis, Feds Raise Rates – March 22, 2023
- Talks Continue as LA School Strike Enters Third and Final Day – March 23, 2023
- Gavin Newsom's Oil Penalty Blazes Through California Senate – Some Lawmakers Say It's Too Rushed – March 23, 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: 03/31/2023



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DATE: March 23, 2023

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

Enrollment Funding Bill Clears Senate Education Committee

A bill that would provide local educational agencies (LEAs) with enrollment-based funding cleared the Senate Education Committee this past Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Senate Bill (SB) 98 (Portantino, D-Burbank) would, beginning with the 2023-24 fiscal year, provide LEAs with supplemental education funding, in addition to their Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) entitlement. The funding would be based on the difference between what the LEA would have received if LCFF funds were apportioned using enrollment numbers and what the LEA did receive under the LCFF using average daily attendance (ADA) information. At least 30% of the supplemental funds would have to be used to address chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy. In addition, there is a maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement such that LEAs would need to maintain at least the same per-pupil spending level on staff who address chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy as in the 2019-20 school year. Failure to meet this MOE requirement would result in the loss of funding under this measure.

SB 98 would not make any changes to the existing LCFF statute, but instead would create a categorical program to provide supplemental funding to LEAs based on the difference between their ADA and enrollment. The bill is a reintroduction of last year's SB 830, which cleared the Senate but never received a hearing in the Assembly Education Committee.

SB 98 is cosponsored by the California School Employees Association and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The proponents argue that SB 98 is a necessary measure to address existing flaws in the state's funding system by providing more equitable funding so school districts across the state can meet students' needs and address the root causes of absenteeism.

The bill is opposed by the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), while the California School Boards Association has an oppose unless amended position. At the hearing, CASBO argued that the bill does not provide safeguards to ensure that the funds are targeted to chronic absenteeism and truancy. CASBO also highlights that the bill creates a new funding

source outside of the LCFF that will complicate how LEAs report all available funds on their local control and accountability plans to address each statewide priority. CASBO also contends that the bill does not address growth districts and would create winners and losers as it does not establish a new funding source and instead takes from the Proposition 98 pie.

While the California Teachers Association does not have an official position on the bill, they did testify that they are concerned that the bill reallocates existing Proposition 98 resources and whether this bill would adequately hold districts accountable for student attendance.

Committee Chair Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) asked Senator Portantino how we can address the fact that as currently written some districts would receive less funding due to this bill taking from the existing Proposition 98 pie. Senator Portantino says that he intends to include hold harmless language to ensure that there are not losers under the measure. This language was not included in last year's version, and it is hard to fathom what it would look like unless it increases Proposition 98 overall.

The bill was eventually approved 6-1 by the Senate Education Committee and will now go to the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it is also expected to pass as Senator Portantino is the chair.

While a fiscal committee has not analyzed SB 98, it was estimated that last year's version, SB 830, would increase overall costs by approximately \$3 billion each year. This is important to note, as Governor Newsom vetoed a slew of legislation last year citing the state's weakening revenue picture and not wanting to add unaccounted costs to the State Budget. With revenues continuing to come in lower than projections, it would seem that SB 98 would have an upward battle should it hit Governor Newsom's desk.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Despite Lurking Financial Crisis, Feds Raise Rates

By Patti F. Herrera, EdD, and John Gray
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
March 22, 2023

Today, March 22, 2023, the Federal Reserve (Fed) raised the federal funds rate by 25 basis points to bring the Fed target rate between 4.75% and 5.00%. Despite the recent turmoil in the banking sector set off by the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, followed by Signature Bank, and struggles with Credit Suisse and First Republic Bank, many economy hawks expected the Fed to remain steadfast in its combat against inflation, which is still hovering well over 2%, and cooling the economy—namely, the buoyant labor market and high consumer demand.

When the banking crisis began, some initially believed the Fed would be persuaded to pause its rate hikes since higher interest rates led to the precipitous devaluation of bank assets. However, others believed just the opposite—that the Fed would raise rates to stave off contagion of the banking crisis by signaling belief that the trouble with Silicon Valley Bank and the others is limited. The Fed is in the midst of the most aggressive tightening campaign since the 1980s.

In his remarks, Chair Jerome Powell reiterated that the Fed would make its decisions on a month-to-month basis evaluating economic data. He acknowledged that rate hikes could lead to below-trend economic activity and a softening labor market, something the Fed is willing to tolerate to reach its long-term goal of price stability and sound economic fundamentals.

The Fed's assessment that the banking crisis is limited remains unknown. Many would argue that it is too soon to tell and if central banking tools will be effective in curbing fears and contagion. What we do know is that what happens in the banking sector will have a reverberating effect on the overall economy.

Note: Union leaders said that LAUSD workers will be back on the job Friday morning but did not rule out another strike in the coming months if an agreement cannot be reached.

Talks Continue as LA School Strike Enters Third and Final Day

LA mayor pushes negotiations. Workers say they will return to schools on Friday no matter what.

By Carolyn Jones and Kate Sequeira
EdSource
March 23, 2023

Union and district leaders in Los Angeles Unified continued to negotiate without reaching an agreement, leaving schools closed Thursday for a third — and what was expected to be the final — day of a service workers strike in the state's largest school district.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass intervened Wednesday afternoon to jumpstart negotiations, and leaders from both sides said they were hopeful they could reach an agreement soon to end the strike by custodians, bus drivers and other essential workers. Teachers have walked out in support as well.

But without quick success in the talks, schools remained shut Thursday to the district's 420,000 students.

Union leaders said workers would be back on the job Friday, regardless of the outcome of negotiations, but they did not rule out a second strike in the coming months if an agreement could not be reached. A second strike would be based on contract issues, rather than working conditions, which is the focus of the current strike.

"We are hopeful that with the leadership of Mayor Bass that we will be able to reach an agreement that leads to living wages and respect and increased staffing for our students in LAUSD," Local 99 spokesperson Blanca Gallegos said Thursday. "(Union members) are going back to work tomorrow with their heads held high ... There is a new recognition from the school district and the entire city of the work they do."

The district also expressed hope without saying how close a deal might be. "We continue to do everything possible to reach an agreement that honors the hard work of our employees, corrects historic inequities, maintains the financial stability of the district and brings students back to the classroom," the district tweeted. "We are hopeful these talks continue and look forward to updating our school community on a resolution."

The teachers union, which is also in contract negotiations with the district, joined members of Local 99 on the picket lines again on Thursday morning for the third day in a row.

On Wednesday, striking workers braved the rain to rally, march, chant, beat on drums and blow whistles to garner support for their demands. Local 99, whose members earn a median salary of \$25,000 annually, is asking for a 30% raise plus an additional \$2 per hour for lower-paid workers, while the district offered a 23% raise plus a one-time 3% bonus for workers who were hired before 2020-21.

"I feel that this is a short-term loss for long-term gains," said Maria Robledo, who teaches third grade at Liberty Boulevard Elementary in South Gate, adding that the strike is a sacrifice for everyone — parents, students and school staff alike.

Families scrambled again on Wednesday to secure child care and to focus their youngsters on homework assigned during the strike. The district opened dozens of child care centers throughout the city, but attendance was relatively sparse. On Tuesday, only 1,353 students showed up, likely because of the stormy weather. Those who did attend spent the day on school work, arts and crafts and sports.

The district also gave out more than 124,000 meals to students and families who rely on schools for food and other services.

On Wednesday, hundreds of striking union members gathered at the district's Region East office in Lincoln Heights, where a surge of rain created a muddy, ankle-deep river. Special education assistant Jennifer Vivas said she hoped the union and district would reach an agreement soon, in part because of the disruption the strike has caused for families.

"Regardless of the outcome, it will better the schools, better our kids' education," said Vivas, who works at Pacific Boulevard Elementary in Huntington Park. "I hope that they understand, and they see a change."

Isabel Barrientos, who attended the rally, said she hopes that the union's demands will bring more staff to El Sereno Middle School in El Sereno where she works as a custodian. She's determined to keep fighting for fair wages, she said.

“Hopefully it doesn’t keep going, but if it does, we’re ready,” she said.

Union workers, many of whom are also parents, said a few days’ inconvenience is worth the longer-term goal of higher wages.

At Liberty Boulevard Elementary, Francisco and Evelyn Ruiz dropped their son off a few minutes after the school’s child care center opened at 8 a.m. Both were on their way to nearby schools to participate in the strike.

“He liked it,” said Francisco Ruiz, who’s a high school teacher in the district.

At Saybrook Park in East Los Angeles, park aide Robert Castro handed out apples and Goldfish crackers to a few students who ran up to him as he stood near the door of the park’s recreation center, which served as one of the district’s child care centers.

“Thank you, mister,” a child called as he ran away. Most of the students who spent the day at the recreation center had left by late afternoon. He said more than 40 had shown, reflecting similar numbers to the day before.

“It came out of nowhere,” Castro said of the strike and the accommodations. “We didn’t know until they told us, but we made it work.”

Note: Governor Newsom’s proposal to penalize oil companies for alleged price gouging cleared the Senate this week after a deal was struck with Democratic leadership and will likely be heard in the Assembly next week.

Gavin Newsom’s Oil Penalty Blazes Through California Senate — Some Lawmakers Say It’s Too Rushed

By Lindsey Holden and Maggie Angst
The Sacramento Bee
March 23, 2023

California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s plan to penalize oil companies for alleged gas price gouging has moved through the state Legislature at lightning speed — much to the chagrin of Republicans, and even some Democrats.

The Senate on Thursday advanced a special session bill from Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley, that would empower the California Energy Commission to gather information on the oil industry and potentially cap profits in the name of preventing gas price spikes.

Senators voted 30-8 to send Senate Bill X1-2 to the Assembly, which will likely consider it next week. Skinner provided updated bill language on Monday after Newsom reached an agreement with Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, D-Lakewood.

But Republicans and a handful of Democrats expressed concern about the speed at which the bill has advanced through the Capitol. The state's legislative process can drag on for months, but the measure appears poised to land on Newsom's desk before senators and assembly members depart the Capitol for a spring recess March 30.

Some also balked at ceding authority over potential penalties and industry regulation to the energy commission.

"I'm opposing this bill, not because I'm standing up here protecting the companies," said Sen. Brian Jones, R-San Diego. "I'm standing up here opposing this bill for my constituents because they were cut out of the conversation. And this bill is going to lead to higher gas prices for all of Californians."

Oil penalty bill gains steam

Newsom and Skinner say the quick turnaround is the result of lengthy behind-the-scenes discussions that resulted in substantial changes to the bill.

For months, it appeared the special session Newsom officially convened in late 2022 was generating little activity.

The governor's initial measure contained vague language that suggested penalizing oil companies for profits beyond a certain threshold and returning excess dollars to consumers. But it didn't contain any information about the profit cap amount or who would be eligible for refunds.

The revised bill language would enable the energy commission to create a new watchdog agency to keep tabs on the oil industry and solicit data and records that companies have not provided until this point. The agency could refer rule violations to the Attorney General's Office and determine whether a price-gouging penalty is necessary to address high gas prices.

Skinner denied the speed had anything to do with preventing the oil industry from mobilizing against the bill.

"It has much more to do with the fact that we are intent on making sure we are designing the best process possible to protect California consumers," she said.

Newsom's office echoed this sentiment as the statewide average price for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel sat at \$4.82, according to AAA — down more than a dollar less than the price a year ago and 25% lower than the all-time high for the same gallon in June 2022.

Spokesman Daniel Villaseñor said in a statement the bill-crafting has been "a highly collaborative process together with the Legislature." He said the perception of a hastily organized bill comes from talking points circulated by oil industry groups like the Western States Petroleum Association.

"The governor wants to get this done for California families," Villaseñor said. "Every day that goes by without this proposal becoming law is a day Big Oil can stay in the shadows."

Democrats worry about rushed process

However, even some Democrats have expressed concerns about the bill's quick turnaround time.

Sen. Josh Newman, D-Fullerton, said during a Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee hearing on Wednesday the bill "seems a little rushed" and worried about its impacts on smaller oil producers.

"If there's one law I believe in in California, it's the law of unintended consequences," Newman said. "We should be wary of that, and we should allow, wherever possible, sufficient time to explore these issues. I think there's some concern we're not doing that in this case, moving from a hearing today to the floor tomorrow."

Sen. Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, on Thursday said the legislative process has "been faster than many of us would like, or what we're used to." Although the bill will "increase transparency and enhance the regulatory oversight of the oil refining industry," it is "far from perfect," Bradford said, suggesting legislative discussions will continue.

"We should be careful not to conflate factors that impact prices with market manipulation," Bradford said. "Nor do I think the energy commission has the expertise to regulate the timing of a refinery turnaround for maintenance."

Bill sails through Senate committees

The Thursday floor vote came after the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced the bill in the morning. Skinner told the committee the plan would cost \$7 million to \$10 million annually, with one-time setup costs of \$1 million.

The Appropriations Committee took up the bill after the Senate Energy Committee voted 12-2 to advance it Wednesday afternoon. Committee members who supported the measure commended the governor and legislative leaders for listening to their concerns and tailoring the bill accordingly.

In particular, several members pointed to a new provision that requires the California State Auditor, no later than March 1, 2033, to complete an audit of any penalty system that may be enacted. If a penalty is instituted and the auditor determines it is not meeting its intended goal to reduce gasoline price spikes and stabilize the fuel supply market, the commission would be forced to terminate it within 180 days.


Sen. Angelique Ashby, D-Sacramento, said the bill had "vastly improved" since its original rendition.

"It's a data-driven approach, which couldn't be wiser," she said. "Because we're not going to have fines and fees and penalties that are arbitrary or based on nothing. They have to be based on data."

Newsom's top climate advisor Lauren Sanchez said Wednesday that the administration hopes to stand up the new watchdog division by the fall of 2023, though that relies on funding to be allocated this budget cycle.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by Edith Navarro, Administrator & Ed Gomes,
Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3748

Regarding: State Seal of Civic Engagement

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board updated information regarding the progress on promoting civic engagement and student access to the State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE). The State of California, recognizing the importance of civic education, adopted the State Seal of Civic Engagement in September of 2020.

The goal of civic learning in Fresno Unified School District is to prepare the district's student population with the knowledge, skills, and values for success in college, career, and civic life. This goal aligns with the district's Mission, Vision, Values and Goals, specifically to student goal number three, "Increase engagement in their school and community". Below are recent highlights of Fresno Unified's progress with implementing the State Seal of Civic Engagement.

- The Civic Education Center presented information about the SSCE to teachers at Roosevelt High School on October 07, 2022.
- Fresno Unified students from Bullard and Edison High Schools as well as Terronez Middle School presented their civic engagement projects at the inaugural California Civic Learning State Summit on November 15, 2022, in Sacramento.
- Students from Design Science Middle College High School as well as Bullard, Sunnyside, Edison, and McLane high schools continue working on civic engagement projects. This June the expected number of graduates is 86 up from 25 in the 2020/21 school year.
- Civic Engagement Projects in the Classroom was offered as a session during the 2023 Winter Professional Learning Summit to build teacher capacity and understanding.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Ed Gomes at 559-457-3554.


Approved by Superintendent.
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 03/31/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Edith Navarro, Administrator & Ed Gomes,
Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-6136

Regarding: The New Teacher Project Good to Great Summer Coaching

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding The New Teacher Project (TNTP)'s partnership with the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning (CIPL), to pilot a voluntarily Good to Great job-embedded coaching experience during summer sessions.

This summer we will embark on the third year of TNTP virtual coaching during summer session. The program is designed with three grade levels, third through fifth and has supported approximately 17 teachers with six lead teachers chairing the work. Teachers plan, teach, and reflect with TNTP support and coaching. The purpose of this program is an intentional professional development experience for our teachers to build their instructional practices around the mathematical progressions in an "on the job" setting. Data is collected using a qualitative and quantitative approach. Teachers create growth reports for each student using qualitative data to analyze growth. Below are two examples from the 2022 summer session:

- "James used the three reads method to be able to solve the math task, James improved by utilizing models and writing an actual equation. James went from just writing his answer to actual showing and explaining his thinking how he solved the math task. James now can successfully explain his thinking versus at the beginning he wasn't able to do so". Third grade student.
- "In the preassessment task, this student understood the operation (to multiply). The student tried to solve it by setting up a standard algorithm. However, place value was not effectively used or understood. By the final assessment, the student was able to demonstrate her knowledge of place value by solving the multiplication problem using the area model." Fourth grade student.

Data was collected around the assessment of math practices with a pre, and post assessment given to students. The assessment tested a student's ability to understand, question and solve a problem with significant to no prompting. The post-assessment data demonstrates student growth over a 14-day window. For an example, one assessment demonstrated students needing less prompting when completing a task over the length of the program. at the programs end only seven of thirteen students needed significant prompting. Students who needed limited to no prompting increased from nine during the pre-assessment to 17 at the post-assessment.

CIPL will partner again with TNTP in the summer of 2023 to offer this opportunity to teachers, on a volunteer basis.


If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Edith Navarro or Ed Gomes at 457-3554.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 03/31/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-3

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Edith Navarro, Administrator & Ed Gomes,
Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3809

Regarding: Ethnic Studies, Cohort II 2023, Summer Foundational Training Institute

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding planning for the Ethnic Studies, Cohort II 2023, summer Foundational Training Institute.

The Institute is to provide teachers interested in teaching Ethnic Studies opportunities to gain foundational skills and the necessary knowledge to teach Ethnic Studies. There are approximately 30 spots open for interested teachers. Topics of focus will include though not limited to "Understanding Implicit Bias: and the Impact on Student Learning".

Teachers will engage in co-developing curriculum for the 2023/24 school year. The 10-day foundational institute will be held from June 12, 2023, through June 16, 2023, and on June 19, 2023, through June 23, 2023. Cohort I was held this past summer, July of 2022 and served 29 teachers, most of which are in current Ethnic Studies teaching assignments.

Teachers who successfully complete the Cohort II training are highly encouraged to apply for open and upcoming Ethnic Studies positions as Fresno Unified moves toward offering Ethnic Studies as a graduation requirement.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Ed Gomes or Edith Navarro at 457- 3554.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 03/31/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-4

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by Edith Navarro, Administrator & Ed Gomes,
Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3748

Regarding: History-Social Science Lecture Series

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update regarding the History-Social Science (HSS) lecture series hosted by Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning. The purpose of these lectures is to increase the content knowledge of our Fresno Unified secondary HSS and elementary teachers so they can provide a more accurate, robust, and representative history for our students.

During these virtual lectures, teachers engage with content experts such as Dr. Leece Lee-Oliver, director of American Indian Studies at California State University, Fresno. They learn more about the history, accomplishments, and contributions of a marginalized group highlighted during the lecture and bring this knowledge back to their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and their classrooms. They also receive instructional materials such as primary source documents and videos as well as instructional strategies for teaching students how to access the text and grapple with hard history.

The lecturers differentiate their presentations and resources based on the needs of our elementary and secondary teachers. This learning opportunity continues in 2022/23 celebrating the stories of those living in our Valley expanding on the content delivered in the 2021/22 school year – for example, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month in 2021/22 we focused on the history of the American Southwest this past month we went in-depth into the history of Mexican Independence.

Feedback from attendees includes:

- 63% of teachers used the information and/or resources in their classrooms in 2021/22
- 100% of respondents said that they will or are likely to attend more lectures in the future
- One example respondent statement was “We need more Professional Learning sessions like this! Super grateful for this opportunity.” and that they want to learn more about the history of all cultures represented in our community.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Edith Navarro or Ed Gomes at 457-3554.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 03/31/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number OS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Deana Clayton, Project Manager
Cabinet Approval:

Date: March 31, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3134



Regarding: Renewal of Exemption from the Definition of School Building for J.E. Young Academic Center and Fulton Special Education Program

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information on a Board item Requesting Renewal of Exemption from the Definition of School Building for J.E. Young and Fulton that will be presented at the April 12, 2023, Board Meeting.

This is a routine request and pertains to buildings not originally constructed for the purpose of housing educational programs and therefore not designed to meet Division of State Architect requirements. The buildings do comply with local building codes. An exemption is required to allow the educational programs to be housed at these locations where 25 or fewer students will be served at one time pursuant to Education Code Section 17289. The exemption is for a two-year period.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Alex Belanger at (559) 457-6126.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 03/31/2023