



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
2309 TULARE STREET  
BOARD ROOM, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
FRESNO, CA 93721  
[board.fresnounified.org](http://board.fresnounified.org)

## **MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

**Fresno, California**

**April 12, 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 April 12, 2023, there were present Board Members Davis, Cazares, 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 seventeen (17) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name along with summary of topic is as follows:

1. Michaela Morris: Requested Fresno Unified to support paid parental leave.
2. Kelly Peterson: Asked how the district will evaluate her teaching as she is a teacher of students with autism.
3. Rhonda Garner: Requested elementary resource specialists to have prep time as they facilitate most of the initial assessments in the district. Requested a school psychologist and more administrative help for site.
4. Jacob Cardona: Commented teacher shortages, especially in the Music Department could be due to the long hiring process and how assignments versus stipends do not align.
5. AJ Pipkin: Commented on the following: substitute teachers are treated like secondhand citizens, long hiring process, need for standard lessons, qualified individuals not able to pass standardized tests. Requested the district to remember the bargaining team and to please listen. Requested the district to hire permanent social workers. Drugs and vaping need to be addressed.
6. Angela Hernandez: Commented the co-teaching inclusion model works well when everything works, will fail without proper support. Commented paraprofessionals leaving positions due to the rate of pay.
7. Esia Galo: Shared support for Men's Alliance and requested class be offered for five periods.
8. Daniel Buttle: Spoke of site safety concerns.
9. Cammie Southern: Commented on several concerns pertaining to preparedness of bargaining members, misplaced students in classrooms,

## **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items - continued**

- how teachers do not feel valued, and students not held accountable for poor behavior. Commented on the need for a strong foundation. Encouraged board/district to see the value.
10. Peter Beck: Read a statement on behalf of Steven Jones.
  11. Cheryl Jacobs: Commented it is sad when new teachers are intimidated and afraid to speak up. Asked Fresno Unified to listen to the experienced teachers. Commented on safety issues. Hopes the district and teachers can come together during the bargaining process.
  12. Grace Wamhoff: Concerns of safety and drug use on campus. Thanked the Board for their support of the music program. Addressed a lack of dedicated music rooms at all sites. Commented on no music in kindergarten or first grade.
  13. Curtis Sisk: Shared concerns with the Edgenuity program.
  14. Jeremy Wright: Credit recovery is needed but Edgenuity undermines teachers and students who put the time and work in rather than passing a course in three days.
  15. Trina Sanchez: Read statement on behalf of Frank Sanchez regarding concerns pertaining to safety at Wawona and lack of traditional activities. Unhappy with DI program at Wawona.
  16. Kimberly Cordova-Lopez: Commented on the pay rate for teachers. Asked the district to come to the table with solutions and listen to FTA.
  17. Manuel Bonilla: Summarized needs for across the district as follows: safe schools, educators treated as professionals, systemic changes. Commented students and educators deserve better, tired of the top-down culture. Requested people to listen and be human beings.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:19 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 7:25 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 7:45 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:45 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 Matt Ward to Instructional Superintendent in School Leadership by the following vote 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonsson Rosas, Levine, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.
- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board acted in Closed Session to promote Rick Santos to Principal II at Phoenix Elementary by the following vote 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonsson Rosas, Levine, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

## **Reporting Out of Closed Session - continued**

- On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board acted in Closed Session to promote Rosas Contreras to Director in Fiscal Services by the following vote 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonsson Rosas, Levine, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Student Board Member Joseph Aquino led the Flag Salute.

## **HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives**

The Board heard comments/reports from Student Board Representatives from McLane High School.

## **HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- I want to start tonight's remarks off with a huge amount of gratitude to our bargaining team and SEIU for landing a tentative agreement. You'll see that agreement coming to our board tonight for ratification by our board. Continuing our collaborative relationships with our labor partners to help our students achieve their greatest potential is essential. Our partners at SEIU include many different roles like our Bus Drivers, Custodians, Grounds Maintenance Workers, and Plant Coordinators – and their work is integral to our students' and staff's success. Thank you to all who brought this agreement to reality, we're grateful for your work and dedication.
- Families! You've heard me say it several times now, and I'll say it again! It's time to enroll your young learners in our preschool, TK, and K programs for the upcoming school year! These early learning years are absolutely CRITICAL to building their strong foundations as a reader. All children who are 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible to enroll in kindergarten, all children turning 5 years old between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> are eligible to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten, and children who turn 3 years old on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible to enroll in preschool. To sign up you can head to our website at [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org) or walk into your neighborhood elementary school.
- This Saturday, over 400 Fresno Unified middle school students will square off in the 15th annual Middle School Tournament of Technology. Students compete in five categories: Robotics, Drones, Coding, Video Production, and Design. Crowd favorites are BattleBots and the Drone Obstacle course, but all events sharpen 21st century skills. This year's theme is retro video games! ToT is the largest technology contest of its kind in the state. We're thankful for our tournament coaches, coordinators, our IT team, and the fifty volunteer judges that are lined up to determine the top competitors. The competition kicks off at 8:30 at Sunnyside High School. The awards ceremony begins at 1 p.m. in the theater. Parents and visitors are welcome.

## HEAR Report from Superintendent – continued

- Next Saturday, we invite you to join us for our IdeaFest at Fresno City College. Our students will be presenting projects they've been working on ALL school year, focused on the theme of "Reflection, Recovery, and Reimagination" following the COVID-19 pandemic. The event is great family fun with food and activities, and the opportunity to interact with our students and provide feedback on their work. Please join us from 11am to 3pm at the Old Administration Building in Fresno City on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Next, I need to make a few acknowledgements, starting with National School Library Month. As a system, we're celebrating the amazing resources of our school libraries and all the amazing staff that make those spaces welcoming, beautiful, and diverse for our students. One of the most impactful employees we've had in this area is our amazing Tom Nixon. Tom is a Manager II in Online Learning and Library Services and a tireless advocate for reading and literacy. Tom has served Fresno Unified for more than 27 years as a Teacher, AVID Coordinator, Teacher/Librarian, and a Teacher on Special Assignment before becoming a manager. If you know Tom, you know he is the number one champion for our Sora Digital Library and has worked diligently in increasing access to diverse titles for our students and our staff. Tom has been a critical partner also in our work in building home libraries for our students, knowing that these movements support overall academic success for our students. Thank you, Tom, for your dedication to our kids, you will be incredibly missed!
- I also want to acknowledge April as Autism Awareness Month, or as some are now calling it, Autism Acceptance Month. This month is important as we continue to educate folks about Autism, and we learn to become more and more inclusive of our neurodiverse students, staff, and families. You see many of us tonight wearing our blue in honor of Autism Awareness Month and hope you'll join us this month by proudly wearing your blue and learning more about how you can support our neurodiverse family members.
- Last, I want to share a quick thank you to our communications team and community partners at Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Clovis Unified, Sanger Unified, Central Unified, Fresno PD, and the City of Fresno for creating a beautiful Traffic Safety public service announcement series. We began airing these PSAs last month and will be airing a new PSA every couple of weeks through the end of the school year on all local news channels. These PSAs are incredibly important as we work to keep our students safe as they travel to and from school every day – and we need our entire community's support. Let's take a look at our PSA and an upcoming PSA with our partners at Clovis Unified.
- Over the next couple of months, you'll get to see all seven PSAs in the series, and we encourage you to share them widely. With that, I will turn the meeting back over to you Board President Islas.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** In response to a comment made earlier in the evening, asked if there was any plan to reduce Men's Alliance. Requested the district to create safety Public Service Announcement using students.

**Clerk Wittrup:** Shout out to Angelica Gonzales at Wawona in the Dual Immersion program, nominated by peers, and awarded teacher of the year. Thanked staff and Board colleagues for their support of Autism Acceptance.

**Member Cazares:** Expressed gratitude for the Ivy League program which provides opportunities for students to visit east coast Ivy League schools. It is a very unique opportunity to not only visit schools but to gain skills to sharpen your resume and college letters. Shout out to Edison student who was accepted to four Ivy League schools.

**Student Member Aquino:** Thanked Hoover region teachers and students for speaking before closed session. Shout out to Hoover's Diversity team.

**Member Davis:** Shout out to Dr. Gloria Ponce-Rodriguez for taking students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities during spring break.

**Board President Islas:** Wished her mother a happy birthday. Read note from principal at Duncan on topic of exceptional students. Shared invitation for Pastries with my Peeps at Mayfair Elementary on Friday, April 14 at 7:00 a.m.

## **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, staff pulled agenda item A-11 from the agenda and no action was taken for this item.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for Agenda Items A-4, A-14, A-17, and A-23 which were pulled for further discussion, and Agenda Item A-11 which was pulled from the agenda by staff, 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 March 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
- A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes for the March 08, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
- A-4, ADOPT Resolution 23-43, Proclaiming April 2023 as School Library Month**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, a resolution proclaiming April 2023 as School Library Month.

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

Student Member Laus: Expressed appreciation for school library month. Commented libraries are important to all student careers within Fresno Unified, with quality access to books will improve not only literacy rates, but also individual lives of students. Shared from personal experience love of school libraries. Expressed hope the district will continue to invest in libraries.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, Agenda Item A-4 was approved 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 Resolution 23-49, Requesting Renewal of Exemption from Definition of School Building for J.E. Young Academic Center, and Fulton Special Education Program**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution 23-49 requesting a renewal of the district's exemption from the Education Code definition of "school building" for J.E. Young Academic Center located at 822 N. Abby Street and Fulton Special Education program located at 3058 N. Millbrook Avenue through April 11, 2025.
- A-6, APPROVE Appointment to Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the appointment of Wanda Hemmitt to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC).

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

- A-7, APPROVE Agreement with Break the Barriers**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Break the Barriers. Break the Barriers will partner with College and Career Readiness/Extended Learning Department to provide swim lessons for up to 540 students in grades Transitional kindergartens through twelve.
- A-8, APPROVE Agreement with Coach Fleck Consulting**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Coach Fleck Consulting. Coach Fleck Consulting will partner with the College and Career Readiness/Extended Learning Department to provide swim lessons for up to 620 students in grades Transitional kindergarten through twelve.
- A-9, APPROVE Agreement with Education & Leadership Foundation**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Education & Leadership Foundations. Education & Leadership Foundation will partner with the College and Career Readiness/Extended Learning Department to provide families with Summer Camp awareness and registration support at individual elementary schools to promote participation of students in the 2023 Summer Camp.
- A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Fresno Chaffee Zoo**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Fresno Chaffee Zoo. Fresno Chaffee Zoo will partner with the College and Career Readiness/Extended Learning Department to provide Zoo mobile programs for 14 days of Summer Academy at 28 Fresno Unified School District school sites.
- A-11, APPROVE Agreement with High Performance Academy, LLC.**  
**ITEM PULLED BY STAFF – NO ACTION TAKEN.**
- A-12, APPROVE Multiyear Agreement with Key Government Finance for Updates, Subscriptions, and Support of Core Network Infrastructure, Content Filter, and Firewall**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the multiyear agreement with Key Government Finance from Development Group, Inc. for annual updates, subscriptions, and support of Cisco core network infrastructure, Cisco Umbrella content filter, and Cisco Firepower firewall.
- A-13, APPROVE Multiyear Agreement with Key Government Finance for Updates and Technical Support of District Telecommunications Systems**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the multiyear agreement with Key Government Finance from Development Group, Inc. for annual updates and technical support of the district's Cisco telecommunication systems.
- A-14, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Kincade Productions, LLC.**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Kincade Productions, LLC.

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

Kincade Productions, LLC. offers an industry-recognized certification for production assistants that is used within the television and film industries for entry-level positions. The addendum expands on the district's current agreement to include video production for students at Hoover and McLane high schools.

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

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** Requested this agreement, if provider is agreeable and with coordination of the school site, to include Roosevelt High School.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item A-14 was approved 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, APPROVE Agreement with Michael O'Neill**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Michael O'Neill to provide the Instructional Division data system design work and technical assistance.

### **A-16, APPROVE Agreement and Piggyback Contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc.**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Tyler Technologies. To ensure the safe transport of every student and efficiency for the Transportation Department a new simple to use, yet comprehensive, transportation management software solution is targeted for a 2023/24 implementation.

### **A-17, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-27, Compostable Meal Trays**

**APPROVED as recommended**, Bid 23-27, Compostable Meal Trays to establish fixed pricing for compostable meal trays used in the district's Child Nutrition Programs.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-17. A summary is as follows:

Member Islas: Commended staff for moving this item forward in response to concerns from the community. Grateful for this step as it is an improvement in presentation of food items and being conscious of our impact on the environment.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Davis, Agenda Item A-17 was approved 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. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

- A-18, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-33, Del Mar Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, Bid 23-33, Del Mar Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building.
- A-19, APPROVE Award of Request for Qualifications 23-10, Transportation Services**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 23-10, Transportation Services. This RFQ will qualify a pool of qualified charter bus carriers and alternative transportation providers to transport students, staff and chaperones for school events and activities.
- A-20, APPROVE Resolutions 23-47 and 23-48 for the Purchase and Sale Agreements and Escrow Instructions for Properties Located Near the Southwest Corner of Kings Canyon Road and Minnewawa Avenue**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, Resolution 23-47 “A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Fresno Unified School District Approving the Purchase of an 8.73 Acre Parcel of Land Located at 1010 S. Minnewawa Avenue in Southeast Fresno and Making Findings Under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15004(b)”, and Resolution 23-48 “A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Fresno Unified School District Approving the Purchase of a 9.02 Acre Parcel of Land Located Near the Intersection of Kings Canyon Road and Minnewawa Avenue in Southeast Fresno and Making Findings Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15004(b)”.
- A-21, DENY Claim GL22-0927-7709**  
**DENIED as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL22-0927-7709.
- A-22, RATIFY Purchase Orders from January 01, 2023 through January 31, 2023 – Primary Report**  
**RATIFIED as recommended**, purchase orders issued from January 01, 2023 through January 31, 2023. 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 January 01, 2023 through January 31, 2023 – Supplemental Report**  
**RATIFIED as recommended**, purchase orders issued from January 01, 2023 through January 31, 2023.

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

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

“Agenda item A-23 contains multiple purchase orders from 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, and in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

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

## **B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **B-24, PRESENT and DISCUSS Fresno Unified Global 2030 World Language and Language Expansion**

#### **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:

**Member Davis:** Requested clarity as to plans for expansion of American Sign Language. Asked if American Sign Language students would also be considered for the seal of biliteracy.

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** Expressed appreciation for this item. Requested clarity as to if Hmong will be assessed. Requested clarity regarding recruitment of students for the Hmong program and if transportation issues were resolved. Asked if enrollment to dual immersion programs will be handled at the site. Asked how the district is messaging the merits of the program. Requested staff to research certification for medical interpreting.

**Member Levine:** Thanked staff for their work and expressed appreciation for this amazing model. Looking forward to Birney becoming a dual immersion school. Requested a board communication with information pertaining to broader academic achievement of students enrolled in a dual immersion program, and specifically if enrollment to a dual immersion program decreases chronic absenteeism.

## **B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA - continued**

**Member Cazares:** Requested clarity to decrease in middle school student participation.

**Member Thomas:** Asked how the department is intentionally recruiting African American students for Hmong and Spanish programs.

**President Islas:** In response to request of Trustee Thomas, requested breakdown for all ethnicities. Thanked staff for presentation. Commented the Board values language diversity and hopes the district acts upon active recruitment of students graduating with seal of biliteracy. Asked how the district plans to improve outcomes pertaining to reclassification. What is the district doing to prevent a student being entered into the system incorrectly based on information on the Home Language Survey.

### **B-24a, OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION of the 2022/25 School Years Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Service Employees International Union, Local 521**

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Davis, Agenda Item B-24a was ratified by a vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSENTENTIONS: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

## **C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**

For the record the Board received two items as follows:

**C-25, RECEIVE Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws**

**C-26, RECEIVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies**

## **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. Sarah Crosby: Commented on concerns with the district dress code and the LGBTQ Pride flag.
2. Stevan Fabela: Celebrated Fresno Unified bus drivers and their competition in the Transportation Rodeo.
3. Carlos Fonseca: Celebrated Fresno Unified bus drivers and their competition in the Transportation Rodeo.
4. Vanessa Gatchaturian: Commented on the Lively Arts Foundation. Would like to see Royce Hall at Fresno High School turned into an interactive Iroquois Center for Constitutional Studies. Shared concerns regarding leadership at Fresno High School.
5. Eileen Jane Giron: Asked if crossing guards are included in videos for public service announcements. Asked for crossing guards to be heard.

**Board President Islas:** Requested staff to follow up with Safe2School regarding equipment that was to be provided to crossing guards such as whistles, flashlights, reflective vests, and stop signs.

## **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 9:29 p.m.