



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

April 26, 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 26, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Wittrup. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present.

For the record, Board President Islas participated from the following teleconference location: Omni Shoreham, 2500 Calvert Street, Room 222, NW, Washington, D.C., 20008. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(B)(2), all action during this teleconferenced meeting was by roll call vote.

Board Clerk Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:32 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Thomas arrived at 4:50 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas arrived at 4:55 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received eighteen (18) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name along with summary of topic is as follows:

1. Charles Oanibene: Commented guest teachers are inundated with obstacles, seen as subpar, thrown in classes without lesson plans, and donate time without pay.
2. Chris Finley: Requested district and teachers to forge solutions together, as the teacher voice is not consistently heard. Teachers work to inspire sometimes without support and lack of resources. Request for smaller class sizes, and proper support.
3. Conor McCloskey: Commented guest teachers serve a unique and often difficult role, are expected to be experts in all subjects, face safety issues, and students sneaking into classrooms. Commented effective guest teachers focus on keeping a lighted hearted and safe learning environment while focusing on the state standards curriculum.
4. Reid Gromis: Commented students deserve long-term sustainable change; students excel when they know someone cares about them. Requested smaller class sizes, building more classrooms, hiring more teachers.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items – continued

5. Sarah Owens: Commented highly disappointed in administration team and is often tormented by them.
6. Laurretta Morrill: Spoke in support of school nurses and listed some of the roles and responsibilities of a school nurse. Shared the credentials required to be a school nurse.
7. Janell Beamon: Spoke in support of school nurses and shared a handout with the Board regarding school nursing scope and standards of practice.
8. Stephanie Shinkawa: Read a letter of support from PA of Gaston Health Clinic. School nurses request a living wage.
9. Teri Reihert: Spoke in support of school nurses and a living wage. Commented, 63 nurses for 74,000 students is mind boggling.
10. Heidi Sagaser: Commented on school health offices and lack of privacy to address student health issues. Requested the expansion of healthcare resources in order to meet the minimum healthcare demands for students.
11. Chelsea Bonilla: Requested the district and Fresno Teachers Association work together to create more equitable systems for redesignation. Commented the additional iReady cut points are a barrier to reclassification.
12. Yesi Madrid: Asked several questions pertaining to accountability. Asked why students are not held accountable for behavior, for physically harming teachers, for verbally harassing teachers, and for vaping in class. Asked where the accountability is when a teacher struggles with ten special day class students and no paraprofessional for support.
13. Curtis Carlton: Commented on poorly run negotiations.
14. Marisa Rodriguez: Commented leadership is action, not position. Commented on Instructional Leadership Team accountability.
15. Jaime G. Cadenas: Commented on need for a school safe, need to feel safe, need for surveillance, and properly trained campus safety assistants.
16. Amy Bogna: Commented on concern with declining school culture, discipline, and safety at school site. Commented believes educational malpractice is being committed. Commented the district is failing its students and asked what type of student are we graduating?
17. Stephanie Maly: Commented Fresno Unified has forgotten what it is like to work at a school.
18. Manual Bonilla: Thanked school nurses. Commented on frustration with what is said verses actions.

Board Clerk Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:14 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:45 p.m.

Board Clerk Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:53 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Giovanna (Joni) Difilippo to Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Labor Relations, 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 Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Maria Mazzoni to Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Labor Relations, 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 Levine, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Kimberly Collins to Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Labor Relations, 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 Davis, seconded by Board President Islas, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Annarita Howell to Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Labor Relations, 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 Clerk Wittrup, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Manjit Atwal to Deputy Executive, Human Resources/Labor Relations, 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 Cazares, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Linda Laettner to Executive Officer, Office of Engagement & External Partnerships, by a vote of 5-0-2-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Levine, Thomas, and Wittrup, ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Jonasson Rosas and Board President Islas.
- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in Closed Session to promote Paul Scott to Director, Information Technology, 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

Student Board Member Kristen Laus led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

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

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Encouraged all families to open a CalKIDS ScholarShare account for your student's college funding! Most of our students qualify for an automatic deposit of \$500, with additional \$500 deposits for students identified as foster youth and/or homeless. In addition, right now until Sunday, any new or newly linked CalKIDS account will receive an additional \$50 deposit. We're talking about a potential of \$550 to \$1,050 dollars for college just by signing up!
- Big technology competitions will take place this Saturday at Hoover High School! First, celebrating our fifth year in esports, the Fresno Unified eSports tournament kicks off at 8:00 a.m. Our middle and high school esports teams will compete for the spring championship, along with esports teams from across the valley. An important data point: over 2,000 Fresno Unified students have participated in esports, starting as early as first grade. The majority of these students had not participated in school clubs or activities. Esports has provided a new engagement opportunity for students, and a way for them to be part of a team that represents their school. Second, our high school robotics competition begins at 8:30 a.m., with 8 high schools and 13 robots in head-to-head competition.
- Both competitions are this Saturday at the Hoover High School Events Center, and both are free to the public. If you are not able to join in person, catch the live stream on Twitch at Fresno Unified esports.
- A few celebrations! First, we celebrated our Fresno State Send-Off earlier this week where we celebrated 2,106 Fresno Unified seniors who applied to Fresno State, with a 95% acceptance rate! That means almost 2,000 of our seniors will be continuing to learn, grow, and put down roots here in the valley. These are our future leaders and I'm so happy to see them continue to serve and build up Fresno.
- As our seniors are receiving college acceptances and scholarships, there are so many students to shout out, so let me share a few with you. Congratulations to Ms. Anna Hun of Duncan who has been accepted to Harvard, Stanford, Dartmouth, Duke, UPenn, Vanderbilt, UCLA, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and the Fresno State Smittcamp Family Honors College. To our knowledge, Anna is the first Duncan graduate to be accepted to the Ivy League!

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- I also want to shout out Thomas Clark Stewart of Edison who has been accepted to Yale, Brown, Columbia, and Cornell! Thomas also had a powerful op-ed article in The Fresno Bee recently and was honored as the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools March Superstar!
- Joslyn Conchas of Sunnyside has been selected for a new program for high school students committed to a medical career and serving the valley's needs. Joslyn is in Sunnyside's Doctors Academy and earned 1 of just 12 spots out of 1,200 applications! The program, San Joaquin Valley PRIME + BS/MD is an educational pathway partnership between UC Merced, UC San Francisco-Fresno, and UC San Francisco. During the eight-year program, Joslyn will earn a four-year degree from UC Merced, complete her pre-clinical medical training at the UCSF medical campus planned for UC Merced, and will complete her remaining training at the UCSF campus right here in Fresno.
- Shout out to Annabelle Raley of Design Science who has been awarded a four-year scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation worth \$55,000 dollars per year!! The sky is the limit Annabelle, congratulations! Just amazing – I'm so proud of our soon-to-be graduates.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Thomas: Expressed pleasure in being able to assist the Robert E. Jones Foundation as they gave scholarships to two Edison students. Commented on being proud of son for graduating and being the first student of the special education program to be early matriculated in Fresno Unified. Shared information on the Edison Region Carnival Extravaganza taking place this Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Member Levine: Shared information for CALKIDZ accounts. Shared statistics of funds verse college attendance. Requested the district to be more intentional in messaging to staff, students, and families about the CALKIDZ accounts and the benefits of the accounts.

Student Member Laus: Recognized two students from Edison High School that attended the California Association of Student Leaders as candidates and returned as members of the board. Thanked the Office of Student Engagement for supporting students and providing opportunities for students to attend these events.

Member Cazares: Thanked Hoover staff for hosting a valedictorian lunch. Recognized great work of students. Congratulated the Duncan team for student presentations at orientation night.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS-continued

President Islas: Thanked Clerk Wittrup for facilitating meeting. Echoed Member Levine's request for the district to step up the messaging and promoting of the CALKIDZ accounts. Applauded Ewing Elementary for their exceptional role modeling of inclusion during Autism Acceptance Week. Provided huge shout out to Patino School of Entrepreneurship for providing an exceptional opportunity for their students specifically the visit by Bloomberg Beta. Provided shout out to Wishon and McLane as Wishon hosted students from the teacher pathway at McLane. Requested a debrief on the district wellness plan meetings, specifically pertaining to how we might get the plan recentered and engaging.

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 Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for Agenda Items A-7, A-11, A-12, A-15, and A-16 which were pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0, 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 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 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

A. CONSENT AGENDA-continued

- A-4, APPROVE Position and ADOPT Job Description Community Schools Coordinator I and APPROVE Revision to the Classified Management 261 Duty Days Salary Schedule for Community Schools Coordinator I**
APPROVED and ADOPTED as recommended, the job description of Community Schools Coordinator I and the Classified Management 261 Duty Days Salary Schedule with Community Schools Coordinator I placement on E-20.
- A-5, APPROVE Revised Classified Hourly Salary Schedule**
APPROVED as recommended, the revised Classified Hourly Salary Schedule.
- A-6, APPROVE Revised Media Technician/Driver Job Description, Revised Media Production Specialist Job Description and Revised Classified Hourly Salary Schedule**
APPROVED as recommended, the revised Media Technician/Driver job description and the revised Classified Hourly Salary Schedule.
- A-7, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with California Teaching Fellows Foundation**
APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with California Teaching Fellows Foundation.

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

“Agenda item A-7 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains an agreement with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation. I am employed by California State University, Fresno. I did not participate in making the agreement with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation; but, because of my employment with California State University, Fresno, I have a remote financial interest in the agreement.

Therefore, 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, Agenda Item A-7 was approved by a roll call 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.

- A-8, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Crowe, LLP.**
APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with Crowe, LLP.
- A-9, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with the Law Office of Rick Jensen**
APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with the Law Office of Rick Jensen.

A. CONSENT AGENDA-continued

A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Benedict College

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Benedict College.

A-11, APPROVE Agreement with BLDG Services

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with BLDG Services.

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

“Agenda item A-11 on tonight’s Consent Agenda is an agreement with BLDG Services which, if approved, would allow the district to sub-lease conference and collaborative space from the BLDG Services. BLDG Services is associated with Bitwise Industries. Prior to January 1, 2023, I received campaign contributions exceeding \$250 from the co-founder/co-CEO of Bitwise Industries.

Therefore, in the interest of full transparency and consistent with the revised provisions of Government Code section 84308, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

Member Jonasson Rosas: Once Farber Campus is fully opened will space needs be reviewed? Dr. Natasha Baker was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, Agenda Item A-7 was approved by a roll call 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.

A-12, APPROVE Agreement with the City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Service Department

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with the City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Service Department.

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

Board President Islas: Commented how important it is the district is providing this as a recreation and exercise opportunity but building the capacity of our students to prevent drowning. This is an impactful benefit back to our community and an exceptional use of district facilities in service to our community.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Requested clarity as to whether the PARCS Department will be fully staffed.

Member Cazares: Requested clarity as to what will happen with the PARCS Department during the rest of the summer.

A. CONSENT AGENDA-continued

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item A-12 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.

A-13, APPROVE Agreement with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) to Conduct a Community Survey Regarding Potential Bond Measure APPROVED as recommended, a proposal from Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) to conduct a community survey to gauge voter interest in a potential 2024 bond measure to continue school facility improvements.

A-14, APPROVE Agreement with J. Graham, Inc. APPROVED as recommended, a renewal agreement with J. Graham, Inc.

A-15, APPROVE Agreement with Moreno Institute, LLC. APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Moreno Institute, LLC.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-15. A summary is as follows:

Board President Islas: Expressed the importance of cooperating with the Moreno Institute students. With regret referred to an issue with their participation on one of the district campuses. Clearly stated the need for the district to communicate appropriately to the campuses using inclusive language so there are no further incidents. Expressed wish for this to be a productive partnership.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item A-15 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.

A-16, APPROVE Award of Bid 23-34, Roosevelt High School Interim Housing APPROVED as recommended information on Bid 23-34, Roosevelt High School Interim Housing.

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

“Agenda Item A-16 concerns the award of Bid 23-34, Roosevelt High School Interim Housing

My residence is located within 500 feet of the southwest edge of the property comprising the Roosevelt High School site. Despite this proximity, awarding Bid 23-34 will have no measurable financial impact on my property because this project is for the installation of two portable buildings which will be used during modernization of the administration building, west hall, and library.

A. CONSENT AGENDA-continued

Moreover, the impact of awarding Bid 23-34 is indistinguishable from its effect on the majority of the residential properties within my trustee area that are part of Roosevelt High School's attendance area.

Notwithstanding the absence of any financial impact on my property, I am abstaining from the vote to award Bid 23-34 pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270 for the express purpose of avoiding the appearance of any conflict."

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item A-16 was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

A-17, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals 23-37, Ready to Serve Pizza with Site Delivery Services

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposal 23-37, Ready to Serve Pizza with Site Delivery Services.

A-18, APPROVE Use of Individual Piggyback Contracts

APPROVED as recommended, a piggyback contract for use during the remainder of fiscal year 2022/23 for efficient and cost-effective procurement.

A-19, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws

APPROVED as recommended, proposed revisions for five Board Bylaws (BB) and one Exhibit (E) as follows: BB 9250 Remuneration, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits; BB 9270 Conflict of Interest; BB 9320 Meetings and Notices; BB 9322 Agenda/Meeting Materials; BB 9323.2 Actions by the Board; E 9323.2 Actions by the Board.

A-19a, APPROVE Agreement with High Performance Academy, LLC.

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with High Performance Academy, LLC.

A-20, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, Change Orders for the projects as follows: Bid 22-01, Addams Elementary School Building Additions and Modernization, Change Order 6 presented for ratification: \$34,540; Bid 22-15, Edison High School Multipurpose Room HVAC Replacement, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$20,823; Bid 22-21, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus, Change Order 4 presented for ratification: \$540,090; Bid 22-36, Malloch Elementary School Playground Replacement, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$8,488; Bid 22-40, Hoover High School Library Modernization, Change Order 2 presented for ratification: \$-71,620.

A. CONSENT AGENDA-continued

A-21, RATIFY the Filing of a Notice of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, a Notice of Completion for a project, which was completed according to plans and specifications as follows: Bid 22-36, Malloch Elementary School Playground Replacement.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-22, PRESENT and DISCUSS Sixth Grade Camp Clothing and Supplies

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-22.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-22. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas: Commented this opportunity highlights the care of district staff and board colleagues and is life changing for students.

Member Cazares: Thanked the staff for bringing field trips back to students. Requested staff to be sure students are getting good quality gear for camp.

Student Member Aquino: Thanked staff for the presentation. Commented it is great to see students have a great time attending camp and it benefits them in a positive way.

Assistant Superintendent Bryan Wells was available to provide clarity.

B-23, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Initial Proposal for the 2023/24 Budget

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received a request to address the Board on Agenda Item B-23. The individual's name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Rochelle Martinez Cantu: Shared concern pertaining to lack of investment in Native American students. Requested Board to increase resources to Native American students.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-23. A summary is as follows:

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

Member Davis: Referenced page fourteen of the presentation and requested clarity as to the breakdown of the support proposed. Requested clarity as to what other resources will be included.

Referenced page twenty of the presentation and requested clarity as to the Block Grant and if the grant will cover facilities. Commented if the district hires ninety new people, they will need rooms to teach.

Referenced page eight and commented on the need to hire registered nurses.

Referenced page nine and requested clarity as to if schools located near public spaces will have additional campus safety assistants. Requested clarity as to what it looks like for a site to share a campus safety assistant. Commented the privacy fence at Ayer looks beautiful.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Referenced discussions from changing the Fresno High School mascot and commented during those discussion requests were made from Native American community for additional support for students; requested a status update pertaining to community requests and ideas.

Commented regional support needs to be equitable as some regions have more schools than others with different needs and there should be an equitable distribution of resources.

Commented on landscaping, and support to reducing water dependent landscaping but keeping the fields and areas of play green. Requested staff to look at purchase of additional landscaping equipment to serve as backup equipment when main equipment is out of order.

Requested staff conduct an audit of translated materials to help create standardization so there is clarity in school and district messaging to families. Requested Human Resources look at differentiating a position for translating and interpreting as they are different.

Commented on the ask for additional staff in the Transfers Office and asked staff to look at improving the processes before adding additional staff as the transfers process is cumbersome for staff and families.

Commented on the need to rethink the Family Learning and Technology Support (FLATS) centers to make them efficient and more accessible for parents.

Commented on the need for accessible changing tables at every school. Requested if money allocated to the Farber Campus includes the early education center. Asked staff to look at providing dedicated music rooms.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

President Islas: Appreciated comments by community member Michelle Cantu. Expressed support to adding more investments to support the Native American students.

Commended Liz Torres on presentation and stated everything the district can do to support health is the right investment. Commented happy to see an increase in investments related to safety.

Requested clarity pertaining to the surplus in the Cafeteria Fund and if the asks from the Nutrition Services Department are in addition to the surplus. Asked if surplus funds and additional resources are coupled will the district be able to provide salad bars at all schools. Requested clarity as to the phased in approach as it does not seem to be a question of resources. Requested staff to provide a timeline for a more robust implementation of salad bars reaching the schools, and chilled water accessible to students outside of lunchtime via the cafeteria hydration stations.

Commented on food consumption and highly recommended the district conduct a food waste study to evidence the impact of the district's changes in this area. Asked in the absence of a food waste study how will the district assess.

Referenced page sixteen of the presentation and asked if there is intentionality of the district to create teacher Career Technical Education pathways.

Member Cazares: Expressed concern this is the only time the Board will receive the budget and is expected to provide feedback on a \$1.9 billion dollar budget; expressed it is a disservice to the Board members and families in the district. Requested it not happen again.

Requested clarity on the addition of librarians to alternative education sites.

Requested information regarding student emotional health and asked if there are new full-time equivalents (FTE) being added to the Department of Prevention and Intervention budget. Requested clarity as to whether the Department of Prevention and Intervention is being moved to the Special Education Department.

Requested clarity pertaining to licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), would like to be sure LVNs are not used in place of registered nurses. Asked how many registered nurses (RNs) are in the district, where there are vacancies, are there recruitment issues, and if the Board can help to bridge gaps with better partnerships. Commented the registered nurse position is difficult to fill because RNs also need teaching credentials to work at a school site. Asked if the district had a certification program to help RNs get teaching credentials, and if not is this something that could be created to incentivize nurses to work for the district.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

Asked how many campus safety assistants are assigned to each middle and high school?

Commented on not only using data for the sake of using data but to change the way students are taught. If principals and teachers have student data on a regular basis, they can focus on the best way to teach students. Requested the data not be linked to only education results but to behavioral results as well to help monitor what can be done differently to help students. Commented the district needs to make sure students are not being removed from class for minor infractions as the students lose time of instruction. Requested consistency in the district and patience and understanding for students growing up in this challenging world, specifically those with an Individualized Educational Plan.

Commented glad to see additional resources provided to the ground crews as at many sites the coaches provide work and resources with their own money. Concerned contract for baseball fields will not be an on-going investment. Concerned the budget proposal did not have provision of extra equipment and supplies for ground crews.

Referenced page twelve of the presentation and was glad to see from scratch cooking listed, children will benefit from that change. Shared at the Hoover Family Engagement Night, the Nutrition Services team presented two new food dishes for parent feedback which were well received.

Commented on the Native American program as well as the English Learners program, this is not the first time staff has been asked to look into the funding and what the Native American program looks like. Commented the response from staff was that there are limits to funds received from the state. Expressed disagreement with the response; feels the district is limiting itself. Commented was glad to hear of the addition of a staff member to the Native American program but did not see funding for fieldtrips, programing, instructional materials, and tutoring. This is not the first time for the request but the fifth and the expectation is to see additional funding beyond the addition of one staff member. Referenced a Paint Night Fresno Unified helped facilitate at which parents were asked to bring their own potluck. Native American students need more support that does not necessarily fit under English Learners Services. Asked if the Native American program might fit better under student engagement or where there is a goal or mission that aligns with program needs.

Congratulated Maiyer Vang for being named Woman of the Year. Asked if Parent University services are offered at alternative education high schools and magnet schools like Patino and Design Science, and if not for staff to consider expanding services to those sites.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

Requested further information regarding the restructure of the Special Education Department, and the addition of support spaces for school psychologists and social workers; asked what the scope of work and funding looks like, and what school sites will be utilized. Commented on the lack of information provided.

Recommended the district consider an increase to athletic directors at the middle and high schools. Commented we under appreciate what sports do for some of our students; not all students will go straight into a job or ivy league school, some will receive sports scholarships and the district does a disservice by underfunding the sports programs. Provided an example as follows, the entire baseball program at Hoover receives approximately \$3,000 which mainly covers the purchase of baseballs and apart from the \$3,000 the coach fundraises. Commented this is the only position in the district that comes to mind that have to raise money for themselves and it is unfair.

Member Levine: Commented in terms of process, given approval for an almost \$2 million dollar budget is expected in June, the presentation is too high-level, and the spreadsheet of line items is difficult to navigate. Requested to have a better product before the public hearing in June.

Commented on the psychometrics proposal. Commented was not sure the public knew during each closed session Board members are provided suspensions and expulsions for review, and as part of the review a student history. Member Levine commented on time on the Board has not seen a case where the student did not have several prior incidents. Commented the psychometrics proposal includes not only academics and discipline but also chronic absenteeism which will provide data of areas the school, teachers, and others may need to address and expressed appreciation for absenteeism being included.

Commented is encouraged to see the increased investments in the Health Services Department.

Mentioned how far the district needs to go to intentionally message and train students to access the CALKIDZ program. Asked if with increased staffing to the College and Career Readiness Department, if there is an opportunity to dedicate staff to ensure all students are signed up by next year.

Expressed appreciation for Ms. Cantu's comments pertaining to investments needed for Native American students. Commented all in attendance would probably agree there is more work to do. Asked if weather through Extended Learning Opportunities Program or elsewhere, there is an opportunity to expand partnership with the Fresno American Indian Health Project to provide support and tutoring to Native American students. Commented it would benefit all students to be exposed to the native tribes around us and their customs and rich history.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

Member Levine referenced has commented before on the need to provide resources and dedicated space, even if temporary, for student resource centers, at least at sites that have expressed a need, and providing those sites with resources whether it is nonperishable food, clothing, or hygiene products, which are all items many of our students need. Asked if this is reflected in the budget proposal as the need is so great.

Commented on the district's purchase of a dozen 10-passenger vans and asked if thought has been given to using vans to help sites transport students that may have missed the bus and have no other way of getting to school as this is a driver of chronic absenteeism.

Member Thomas: Requested clarity as to where in the budget are requests for magnet schools. Commented that Baird, Bullard TALENT, Computech, and Manchester Gate, are often overlooked. Commented on facilities at those sites are lacking.

Commented on the Native American budget and the breakdown of dollars per student.

Concerned about moving money around in the art programs and requested detail as to how the money will function in the district. Commented it has been a long time since the programs have received resources and many teachers do not even have a space to complete grading.

Commented the Office of African American Academic Acceleration (A4) inherited Black Student Unions but did not receive additional FTE and only received one-time dollars. Asked what will be done later and when will money be transferred from Goal 2 to A4.

Clerk Wittrup: Echoed comments of fellow colleagues. Concerned about how this budget is communicated as it is hard to find things and is not clear. Commented glad this is a rough draft because it allows for changes that are needed.

Commented has learned a lot from completing instructional walks in the Bullard region. One of the things is something that has historically been in the way of how things are done; there is a real disconnect between our school sites and the special education district office.

Commented there are things not being seen, and one is that stability at schools is important and when we poach and deplete services from our schools to make up for management deficiencies we do so at the expense of our students with special needs. Commented on having seen a lot of evidence of poaching and asked that a deeper look take place before moving forward with these budget asks. Provided

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

an example is as follows, an elementary school psychologist has been promoted, which is great, but with six weeks of school remaining the district is going to move the psychologist to the special education office except for a day or two a week. Commented this is very disruptive to the students and the school site.

Commented, as a former school psychologist, momentum is built with a team, deep connections are made with students, staff, and parents. There seems to be the thought that a person can be pulled out and replaced with a revolving door of psychologists and that is not right. I have seen psychologist services depleted at Bullard region schools. Lawless has not had a psychologist all year and the workload has been placed on another psychologist, which is fine for short-term support, but support psychologists are not supposed to be sent in for the entire school year. When this is done professional practices get sloppy. Example, initial evaluations for students with suspected autism are complex and take a lot of time, time to connect with the student, parents, and the team. Those evaluations are being done with a virtual psychologist, having the seasoned, veteran school psychologist act as proctors so the virtual psychologist can do the evaluation. Commented on this being a backward process and asked who thought it would be okay. Commented on having found out, accidentally, while visiting Lawless the resource specialist has to case manage the revolving door of psychologists, virtual and in person, which takes away from the work of the resource specialist.

Commented on hearing reports of regional instructional managers in the Hoover region demanding Individualized Education Plans be in compliance by staff staying after school to do testing, these are not solutions. Commented it makes me lose my faith and trust in the budget recommendations presented.

Commented when a principal is asked to decide, between a guidance learning advisor or a psychologist full-time, this is an inappropriate question because these are baseline services and they do not do the same work, anyone asking that question does not seem to have a good understanding of what a school psychologist and guidance learning advisor do.

Commented, this is happening at RATA and these are our most vulnerable students. When we talk about Tier 3, this is the very top of the tier, one click away from hospital or residential placement and yet we are depleting the psych services at the site, they have two days a week, that is absurd, that should offend everybody in this room, it is not appropriate. Baird and Bullard TALENT have 2.5 days a week of psychologist services, they are both middle schools and both have approximately 700 students. I'm telling you, as a school psychologist myself, you cannot do that job well, so you find shortcuts and practices that are not going to be the best thing for kids.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

Commented on being very, very concerned about the budget asks as special education management hasn't been scrutinized or reorganized the way it needs to be, the way it was recommended by the Council of the Great City Schools. Commented on looking forward to meeting with Dr. Baker and Dr. Pinheiro next week to get some of these things nailed down. Asked why special education is asking for a director to oversee differentiated assistance, exceptional disproportionality, data analysis, when these tasks are all done by the SELPA Director. These are responsibilities which have always been fulfilled by the SELPA Director. Asked why another manager is being hired? Commented that these are the nitty-gritty questions that need to be answered before moving forward with this budget. Requested there be no more poaching in special education. Commented the most important work happens with children at schools, not at the district office and our orientation has to change so that our managers are at schools, so they know what is going on, and so there is not this disconnection.

Commented on receiving reports about a special education manager who is bullying staff that report to the manager. Commented these things have to be looked at fearlessly and addressed. Commented I cannot approve this special education budget ask until I know these things have been addressed. Commented it cannot keep sliding it has been sliding in special education for the last twenty years. I don't think anybody has the tolerance nor should they have the patience to allow it to go on. As a district we really need to do the right thing.

Commented on literacy and asked how literacy will be funded with a block grant that will end in five years. Commented on getting ahead of the taskforce but feels it needs to be thought about as in five years the block grant will run out, and asked if literacy coaches will no longer be needed.

Commented on nutrition, and athletes needing more food. Commented the district will need to supplement. Commented there are not enough meals provided by the lunch program.

Commented on the need for deferred maintenance as the state does not provide. Commented on the need for the district to build a strong deferred maintenance to quickly address aging schools and other facility problems that may arise.

Commented the course for special education needs to be adjusted.

For the record, Patrick Jensen, Liz Torres, Amy Idsvoog, Amanda Harvey, and Paul Idsvoog, were available to provide clarity.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received eight (8) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name along with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Maria Velasquez: Shared concerns regarding bullying incidents against her son and discipline issues pertaining to an incident involving her and another parent.
2. Tyron R. Williams: Commented on the long-standing partnership of the Fresno Housing Authority and Fresno Unified and expressed anger and sadness regarding comments reportedly made by a vice principal at Sunnyside High School. Shared a reminder for all people to be diligent to recognize their own bias.
3. Eric Payne: Shared comments with a deep sense of concern. Commented on behalf of the families involved in an incident with the vice principal of Sunnyside High School. Commented the family had been present since 5:00 p.m. hoping to speak to the Board but as mom drives school buses and it is now going on 10:00 p.m., family had to leave. Requested the vice principal not be allowed to return.
4. Sarah Crosby: Shared concerns with the district school dress code and read a comment pertaining to the issue on behalf of her son, a student at Bullard High School.
5. Steven Fabela: Provided results from the April 15, 2023, northern California Rodeo bus driver competition and shout outs to the team. Provided t-shirts to Board members and thanked the Board for their support.
6. Carlos Fonseca: Commented on the Rodeo and shared how proud he was of the Rodeo team. Expressed appreciation for their efforts and knowing there is safe transportation for students. Thanked Board members for their support.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 9:55 p.m.