



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**  
**May 10, 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 May 10, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present.

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

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

For the record, the Board received eleven (11) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name along with summary of topic is as follows:

1. Jon Bath: Commented did not feel the Fresno Teachers Association (FTA) needed to attend the Board meeting to address FTAs concerns as the Board was in receipt of the FTA proposals. Addressed each Board member, commented on topics of class size, budget, and asked if the district could hire a consultant to rate the district top to bottom.
2. Marcia Vander Pool: Advocated for students, requested smaller class size, talked of student trajectory for success. Commented on inequities of support in kindergarten classrooms.
3. Michelle Lee-Vang: Ceded time to Marcia Vander Pool.
4. Pa Vue: Did not come to the podium when called.
5. Claudia Brown: Commented in support of teachers and students.
6. Nadine Cannady: Commented it is hurtful when NTAs do not receive the same amount in raises.
7. Janay Flynn: Commented teachers are not being listened too. Requested the district to value teachers.
8. Marisa Rodriguez: Commented classroom has had a problem with rodents, and on facility problems pertaining to restrooms and air conditioning.
9. Jen Rangel: Read a letter on behalf of a student from Kings Canyon Middle School.
10. Rocio Hernandez: Commented on concern for her child in a kindergarten class of twenty-five students with no paraprofessional to support the teacher.
11. Manuel Bonilla: Commented it is out of love for the students and community that teachers come each week to address the hard questions.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m.

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

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:55 p.m.

### **Reporting Out of Closed Session**

- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board acted in Closed Session to approve dismissal charges for a classified employee, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Davis, Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.
- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board acted in Closed Session to promote Rebecca Wheeler to Instructional Superintendent, School Leadership, by a vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. NOES: Board Member Thomas.
- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Michael Niehoff to Executive Director, Alternative Education/Instructional Division, 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 Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board acted in Closed Session to promote Allyson Burns to Principal III at Sequoia Middle School, 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 promote Landon Ailanijian to Principal III at Kings Canyon Middle School, 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 Davis, the Board acted in Closed Session to promote Julie Johnson to Principal II at Fremont Elementary School, by a vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Wittrup, and Board President Islas. ABSTENTION: Board Member Thomas.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

David Chavez led the Flag Salute.

## HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

The Board heard reports from Student Board Representatives from eLearn Academy.

### HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Families, did you get your text yet to sign your student up for summer camps? Camps are already filling up, so do not wait! If you don't have your texted link for any reason, you can also head to our website at [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org) and click the summer camps banner on the homepage. We have options for all students, in grades Transitional kindergarten through twelve, all abilities, and all interests! This year, transportation will be provided from each of the regional high schools and as always, students will receive a meal during their camp as well. Sign up now!
- A quick heads up to our families and staff, we are working with Hanover Research to conduct virtual focus groups with families and in-depth interviews with school site staff to help us better understand your perspectives on what information is needed to support your student's goals and talk with their school about their performance. Please be on the lookout for an email from Hanover Research to participate and share your feedback. We appreciate your engagement throughout this research process!
- I want to take a moment and recognize several important celebrations during this month of May! First, we are celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month, National Foster Care Month, as well as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.
  - With 1 in 5 adults experiencing mental health issues and youth mental health declining following the pandemic – it's now more than ever that we need to lose the stigma and put our mental health first. Students, families, and staff – we have resources and support available, please reach out to a trusted adult if you need any support.
  - As a foster to adopt dad myself, National Foster Care Month hits home for me. National Foster Care Month is a time to acknowledge the 463,000 American children and youth in foster care and the family members, foster parents, volunteers, mentors, child welfare professionals, and policymakers who help them find permanent homes and connections. I'm incredibly proud of our teams supporting and engaging our foster youth, especially our Project ACCESS team!
  - As we also celebrate Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Heritage month, this month serves as a time to celebrate the culture, history, and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in our community and across the country. There are celebrations across our district, and learning happening in our classrooms to recognize this month. Thank you for all who ensure we celebrate our rich cultures across Fresno Unified!

## HEAR Report from Superintendent-continued

- Last week we also celebrated School Principals' Day, National School Nutrition Employee Week, and School Lunch Hero Day! If you did not get a chance to celebrate your principal or Nutrition Services staff last week, take that opportunity now to let them know how much you appreciate and care for them. We could not do what we do without are amazingly dedicated Principals, and certainly could not set our students up for learning success without our Nutrition Services teams! Thank you.
- Today, is also National School Nurse Day! We are so blessed to have so many amazing nurses supporting our schools across the district, and I am proud to see our Board continue to invest and support our Health Services team who serve our students every day. Thank you for your dedication and love for our kids!
- Last but certainly not least, this week we're celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Week, National Teacher Appreciation Day, and California Day of the Teacher. Please take time this week to celebrate the teachers in your life. I cannot express my gratitude enough for all of the amazing teachers in our Fresno Unified Family. Our teachers are the single most impactful people to their students, working incredibly hard to support the academic and social-emotional growth of their classes. They go above and beyond every day and we could not do anything in our district without them.
- There are countless examples of amazing teachers across our system, but I want to share one current example of the hearts of our teachers here at Fresno Unified. Right now, one of our beautiful TK students at Herrera Elementary is battling lung cancer. Without missing a beat, teachers Myisha Lea'ea, Michael Salinas, Danielle Villarreal and Emmelin Herrera alongside leadership students have started fundraising to support the student and her family. They have raised almost \$6,000 dollars already through t-shirt sales and students selling lemonade at the open house and to their fellow students at school. A heartbreaking circumstance turned heartwarming by the huge hearts of our Fresno Unified family. To close out tonight, I would like to share a recent Faces of Fresno Unified feature on one of our amazing teachers, Christopher Clark, at Wawona.

## BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** Recognized Mexican Mother's Day. Provided shout out to the Steve Scholar's graduating class. Thanked Parent University for hosting a Cinco de Mayo event. Referenced a Board Communication pertaining to dual immersion and asked the communications team to message so all parents know the program is for all ethnicities. Recognized progress towards completion on backlogged Individual Educational Programs but would like more focus on the work to ensure a better job is done to resolve. Shout out to the Balderas teacher who provided student letters advocating for school lunches. Addressed campus restrooms being closed during the school day, and requested it stop. Asked if the

banners regarding school tutors are effective. Requested the district to look at process improvement rather than adding more staff when reviewing budgets. Requested staff to use an equity lens in paraprofessional distribution, asked why some classrooms have a six-hour paraprofessional and others do not; requested a Board Communication and asked the Board Communication to include speech language pathologists, nurses, paraprofessionals, school psychologists, and an updated so the Board may see where services are provided, what level services are provided, and if there are equity gaps.

**Clerk Wittrup:** Thanked Instructional Superintendent Jennifer Stacy Alcantara for partnering in school visit instructional walks. Commented on having observed reading instruction and student achievement in grades Prekindergarten through second at all Bullard region schools. Expressed dismay to see low achievement scores and lack-luster instruction of reading in some classrooms.

Commented on being impressed with the program Principal Rodriguez and Vice Principal Stevenson have in place at Ericson Elementary School. Commented on a visit to Vang Pao Elementary School with Principal Lee and seeing evidence of incredible instruction and of being on-track to reach 70% student proficiency in reading in first grade. Commented the district needs to spotlight these schools as exemplars.

Commented Roeding Elementary School interventions are well managed, have strong excellent first teaching and progress monitoring, with an urgency and vigilance around reading. Commented they have a strong team, and the entire school is invested. Commented the school does not experience push back on meeting hours as teachers find value in the meetings. Commented all children deserve this, and it needs to happen everywhere in Fresno Unified.

**Member Davis:** Invited everyone to the Wild Cat Literacy Carnival on May 19, 2023, thanked Parent University for facilitating. Thanked Francine and Murray Farber for their partnership and generosity with the Steve Scholar's event. Provided shoutout to the partnership with California State University, Fresno, and the great work for high school students.

**Student Member Aquino:** Thanked staff in recognition of staff appreciation, especially in the Hoover region, for their positive impact on Member Aquino's life. Thanked Member Jonasson Rosas for addressing the issue of locked restrooms on campuses. Recognized Rebecca Wheeler on new position. Provided congratulations to the 2023 graduating seniors of Fresno Unified.

**Member Cazares:** Congratulated Principal Wheeler on promotion and recognized Principal Wheeler's dedication and work ethic. Commented on the California State University, Fresno, Bulldog Bound program. Explained that with the program high school freshman will have access to the campus buildings, professors, and staff and this will provide incentive to attend college. Commented through the Bulldog

Bound program students will be guaranteed admission if they put in the work during high school. Commented having students exposed to Fresno State early and regularly will help students transition smoothly and feel welcomed.

Reminded teachers, parents, and staff to be patient with students at this time of year as they may be more antsy when seeing the finish line. Requested an update on program analysis and return on investment before the end of the budget season so Board members may use it as a framework for their decision-making process. Recognized Mexican Mother's Day.

**Member Thomas:** Thanked nurses for the work they do every day. Thanked Parent University's Maiyer Vang and team for the Edison Extravaganza Carnival. Commented on being happy and proud to see students on college signing day. Agreed with Trustee Jonasson Rosas regarding campus restroom access, and requested the district figure out a plan to address the issue. Shared process used at Gaston Middle School as a good example. Thanked Edison coaches for allowing Member Thomas to throw the first pitch at the Senior Night baseball game. Provided shoutout to The Great Kirk for a great Cinco de Mayo event.

**President Islas:** Echoed Feliz día de la madre. Commented was honored to participate in McLane's valedictorian dinner. Commented on success of Duncan's student portfolio presentation night. Provided shoutout to Ewing Elementary boys who took third place in the Valley Championship 4x400 and 1600-meter relay. Provided shoutouts to Ewing Elementary School as they hosted their first folkloric family performance, and over 30% of students in special education at Ewing exceed iReady standards. Commented on Rowell Elementary School's exemplary work with a 65% increase in reading scores and 83% increase in math scores. Recognized Wishon Elementary School for doing a wonderful job of being dedicated and shared Wishon began the fall at 19% in reading and at 7.8% in math, they are now at 52% in reading and 34% in math. Provided shout out for summer academy enrollment.

### **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 Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for Agenda Items A-4a and A-14 which were pulled for further discussion, 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 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 April 26, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

### **A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting**

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes for the March 28, 2023, Board of Education workshop and the April 12, 2023, regular Board meeting.

### **A-4, ADOPT the 2023/24 Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, the 2023/24 Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators.

### **A-4a, ADOPT Resolution 23-67, Recognizing Former Trustee Manuel G. Núñez (1936-2023)**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, a resolution to recognize the life and legacy of former Trustee Manuel G. Núñez.

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

**President Islas:** Shared she met Mr. Nunez when she was a student at Summer Bridge where he was a counselor. Read the resolution into the record.

**Clerk Wittrup:** Shared Mr. Nunez championed bilingual education in the district and how thirty years later his legacy has bloomed into the dual immersion program throughout Fresno Unified School District. Thanked the family for attending the meeting and expressed condolences to the Nunez family.

**Member Davis:** Shared a memory of Mr. Nunez and his wife Lasara faithfully attending Roosevelt High School events. Offered condolences to the Nunez family and commented that we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nunez and his family.

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

For the record, Peter Nunez, son to Manuel G. Nunez, introduced the family present and shared a special tribute to his father.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item A-4a was adopted by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

For the record, Board President Islas called for a break from 8:00 p.m. to 8:03 p.m.

- A-5, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Alboum Translation Services**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an addendum to the agreement with Alboum Translation Services.
- A-6, APPROVE Agreement with City of Fresno for Summer Swim Program at Fresno Unified School District Pools**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with the City of Fresno for use of Fresno Unified School District pools for a city-operated Summer Swim Program commonly referred to as “Blue Space.”
- A-7, APPROVE Carl D. Perkins Applications for Funding**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the 2023/24 Carl D. Perkins Applications for Funding.
- A-8, APPROVE Pilot Speech Language Pathologist 185 Duty Days Salary Schedule**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the Pilot Speech Language Pathologist Salary 185 Duty Days Schedule effective February 01, 2023, through June 30, 2026.
- A-9, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals 23-38, Fresh Juice, and Dairy Products with Site Delivery Services**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, Request for Proposals (RFP) 23-38, Fresh Juice and Dairy Products with Site Delivery Services to establish fixed pricing for delivery of fresh juice and dairy products with site delivery services to 105 school locations.
- A-10, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, proposed revisions for the following five Board Policies (BP): BP 0420.4 Charter School Authorization; BP 0420.41 Charter School Oversight; BP 0420.42 Charter School Renewal; BP 0420.43 Charter School Revocation; and BP 6163.2 Animals at School.
- A-11, DENY Claim GL22-1004-8861**  
**DENIED as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by Rashad Al-Hakim Sr., case GL22-1004-8861.



**A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

**A-12, DENY Claim GL22-1004-8862**

**DENIED as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL22-1004-8862.

**A-13, RATIFY Purchase Orders from February 01, 2023, through February 28, 2023 – Primary Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, purchase orders issued from February 01, 2023, through February 28, 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 with the exception of 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-14, RATIFY Purchase Orders from February 01, 2023, through February 28, 2023 – Supplemental Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, purchase orders issued from February 01, 2023, through February 28, 2023.

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

“Agenda item A-14 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders for California State University, Fresno, Downing Planetarium, California State University, Fresno, Association, and California Teaching Fellows Foundation.

I am employed by California State University, Fresno. I did not participate in the making of the agreements related to these purchase orders; but, because of my employment with Fresno State I have a remote financial interest in those agreements.

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-14 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. ABSENTIONS: Board Member Levine.

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

### **B-15, DISCUSS and ADOPT the Proposed Curriculum Recommendations for Secondary World Language Courses**

#### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-15.

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

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** Requested clarity as to if secondary world language courses are separate and distinct from dual immersion. Asked if the Rosetta Stone program is still used by sites. Requested clarity as to other world languages offered.

**Member Thomas:** Commented historically the Board has been offered time to review curriculum.

**Member Levine:** Requested a Board Communication be provided regarding the teacher ratings for the curriculum. Asked how exhaustive teacher ratings were, how much of a difference between the first and second choices of curriculum.

Instructional Superintendent Ed Gomes and Manger II Michelle Orelup were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, Agenda Item B-15 was adopted by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

### **B-16, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Special Education Department's Vision for Transformation and Budget Recommendations for High Quality Student Supports**

#### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-16.

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

**Member Levine:** Requested clarity as to what percentage of Individual Educational Programs is the district behind and how does this compare to previous years. Asked if the district is moving away from a regional approach within operational efficiency.

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

**Clerk Wittrup:** Commented on support of the proposal to change program managers to regional managers as this may help manage areas of work not being completed. Asked staff how they would describe the effectiveness of the current special education management team. Commented compliance is important but what is more important is the quality of the work being done that allows the compliance box to be checked. Commented compliance does not translate into the child's or families experience in our system. Fresno Unified has a history of working hard to complete Individualized Educational Programs (IEP) but what are the experiences for each individual child, staff, and classroom? Commented on the history of systemic failures in placements, staff not prepared, bad placements made, work not being done, and communication is lacking.

Commented, often when calls are made to Special Education Department calls are not returned so teachers, parents, and school sites do not get the help needed. Commented on would like a system where when a call is made, somebody arrives and is there to help, a system where a student is not dropped off at a school with a bad placement and the IEP team disappears; commented this is happening even after the report from the Council of the Great City Schools.

Commented the experience lies in the details not the compliance. When Special Day Classes are overcrowded for the entire school year, that is something to be addressed. Requested to know the goals tied to each budget ask; referenced a budget request for \$1.3 million in administrator positions for special education and asked how this will translate into the experience for children and support for teachers. Commented on understanding past data systems where not reliable but until the management team responsible for some of the issues is addressed questions adding another layer of administration. Commented on concerns with the current management team and how services to schools are determined. Asked what criteria is used when determining how much time a psychologist is scheduled at each school.

Commented compliance is not compliance when the work is not done well. Commented the spirit of compliance is actually doing the work that is checked on the paper. Commented on understanding state requirements but often the district does not do the quality of work for which it is taking credit.

Requested to look at the psychologist allocations for each school. Concerned with the proposal's high-level conceptual perspective and commented if it does not happen for students, it is meaningless. Concerned the proposal does not address occupational therapist positions or resources. Commented on concern with lack of conversation regarding capping class sizes in special day classes. Referenced a visit to preschool special day classes for students with autism and observing preschool classes with fourteen/fifteen students; commented the work cannot be done well in those situations. Commented the district needs to a better job, needs

to support special education teachers, and provide psychologists time needed to do their jobs. Commented on request for Rata School to receive psychologist services equitable to student needs. Commented two days a week is not enough for schools like Rata or Addicott.

Commented on the need for transition evaluations of students moving to the adult program be solid and have the required behavioral consultations. Commented does not see in the proposal how those areas are addressed. Asked, beyond compliance, how are students with special needs being supported. Commented, compliance is the lowest level of work done and has no heart, it is a piece of paper with a checkmark. The real work is with children and the conditions need to be right. Requested to know how the district plans to make that happen.

Commented on concern with the special education organizational chart, specifically the three vacant leadership positions. Commented on the need for a strong focus on the work before moving.

Requested Superintendent Dr. Nelson to contact Julie Wright Halbert with the Council of the Great City Schools.

For the record, Board President Islas provided support to Member Wittrup's request for Superintendent Dr. Nelson to contact Julie Wright Halbert with the Council of the Great City Schools.

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** Echoed support for contact with Julie Wright Halbert. Requested clarity as to if each region will have a manager III position. Commented regions are not all the same size. Requested clarity as to how manager IIIs will work with the instructional division. Commented the district is working to complete IEPs which then will need to be implemented which means services will need to be in place and asked what the district's plan is to meet the increased level of services.

Asked if staff anticipated a gap resulting from the additional 500 Individual Educational Programs (IEP). Asked for clarity as to if all 500 IEPs are new or existing. Referenced a comment made regarding special education currently not having the right people in the right roles, and commented the issue needs to be addressed before adding new positions. Commented in favor of more services to students, and in favor of adding positions that support direct services to students versus adding management; need to understand the need for more management positions as what our community and families see is different from what is being presented. Commented special education may comply, have support and processes in place but if the process and experience itself is frustrating and complicated for families, adding more management will not matter. Requested to see a budget proposal which reflects a focus on students and services to parents, and once processes and issues are worked through, then look at the possibility of phasing in other levels that may need support.

Commented as a district we say we are committed to principles of equity. Commented on exploring principles of equity with speech language pathologists and having worked toward a formula for vice principals, and asked where is the formula that bases services on need when Jackson Elementary's enrollment is less than Storey Elementary's. Commented we as a district should be committed to equity and making sure every school has what they need in proportion to their needs. Commented during staffing, we do equality versus equity and it is the same when things are done by region, so it then looks as if our commitment to equity is vague.

Commented on the need for more nuanced conversations when discussing services provided to students to ensure they are fair, equitable, and proportional to needs. Commented that during staffing it should be done in a way that is applied across the Board and in which everybody understands. Commented on many of the decisions that have been made have been based on giving everyone one or half of something and not what was needed based on student need.

**Member Levine:** Requested clarity to the proposed organizational chart, specifically the proposed new role, asked if the proposal is to add departments outside of special education. Asked for an example of what other departments would be considered. Commented would have several questions and concerns if the proposal is to move in that direction.

**Member Cazares:** Commented on the formula for adding psychologists to sites and does not believe there was one before Dr. Pinheiro started. Commented Board members requested a psychologist available at every school as much as possible and Superintendent Dr. Nelson delivered on request. Commented does not want to go back to the way things were before, does not want sites to lose services. Commented we are asking the wrong question of Dr. Baker and Dr. Pinheiro as they were not here.

**Member Thomas:** Commented this is a heavy lift, and we all want to support the direction Dr. Baker is going. Commented this is budget time, and we are all hitting the emergency button. Requested the percentage rate of compliance. Commented on concern for the site staff, asked where in the proposal can the full-time paraprofessionals be found, asked how many more will be added. Asked about growing our own, who is training the paraprofessionals. Suggested the creation of a paraprofessional pathway. Commented paraprofessionals and special education staff need Professional Learning Communities.

Asked what the plan is to improve graduation and inclusion rates. What is the plan to ensure students in special education classes can participate in Career Technical Education programs? Asked how the district plans to message information to schools and parents. Commented Kirk and Lincoln are the most impacted, and paraprofessionals need to provide expert services. Asked what is the district's

incentive plan for teachers to get a special education credential. Asked how programs are managed in special education and how are things managed when students are misplaced.

**Board President Islas:** Appreciated the effort of staff for the presentation and glad to hear Board members will have an opportunity for small group sessions. Commented draw back to small group sessions is colleagues miss hearing the questions, thoughts, and feedback of the group. Asked for a status update on steps taken in response to the report from the Council of the Great City Schools. Commented on information presented on slide eight pertaining to the breakdown of eligibility by region as well as slide fourteen pertaining to the diversity of the community. Requested staff to reflect on how the two tie together, specifically when hiring people to special education. As an example, 26% of students are eligible under speech/language impairment, how many staff are needed to meet the need. If a student is eligible under specific disabilities, how does staff desegregate information to know which expertise is needed to serve the population? Asked if special education has staff that can meet the ethnic and language needs of students. How are non-English speaking families served. In terms of interpretation and translation services, are more resources needed? What does this mean in terms of recruitment? Commented on investment by region, and asked if it is known there is a higher need in a specific region are resources distributed to reflect the need.

Commented on slide thirteen, what does this mean in terms of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). Commented it is helpful to know if we have the right staffing pattern to help meet the goals. Commented on being in favor of having a real number of the need so we can create movement toward the need.

Commented on the importance of windows of opportunity and missing those windows. Commented the downfall of not being caught up on IEPs is we are then not sure the right resources have been directed to students. How will we ensure there will be the right oversight, so we are not depending on the goodwill of staff to get things caught up, so this does not happen again, what is the solution? If the responsibility falls to every one then it needs to be clearly defined in job descriptions. Commented there is an importance of thinking not just of the services to students but of mitigation of liability for the district. Commented on the need to get this right. Feels it is a good recommendation to have external objective support look at the proposal to gage if it is the right path and best practice.

Dr. Natasha Baker and Dr. Tangee Pinheiro were available to provide clarity.

For the record, Board Member Davis left the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

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

### **B-17, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2023/24 Strategic Budget Development**

#### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Agenda Item B-17.

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

**Member Jonasson Rosas:** Referenced slide three and asked what metrics were used to be sure the programs work and merit expansion. Requested staff provide information in a Board Communication. Requested clarity if request for six FTE is for new positions. Requested to see Indian Education supports augmented for next year. Referenced slide six and asked if this department would lead the work in terms of equity and resources from a systemwide perspective, proactively looking at data and making recommendations. Asked if students will be able to call the Equity Response Hotline.

**Member Thomas:** What is the overall budget for the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Department. Requested a copy of each budget for departments under DEI. Requested clarity as to how many sites have a Black Student Union. Asked if one person is in charge of all sites what other support does that person have. Aske the same for the American Indian Department and for administrators of Black Student Unions Asked staff to highlight that Historically Black Colleges and Universities program is not only for African American students. Asked how many African American students are in the district now, and commented on the breakdown of resources per student, and asked what will it look like when one-time resources are gone. Asked to see the number of current FTEs and how many are being added. Member Thomas thanked the staff for their hard work.

**Member Cazares:** Commented on not knowing what questions to ask as does not feel like the budget has been presented in a way to ask intelligent cohesive questions.

**Board President Islas:** Referenced Member Cazares comment and added that the Board is used to seeing the budget presented in a specific way; seeing previous year spending, where the district is at current year, and where the district will be in the future.

Asked if the term American Indian is the preferred way this specific population would like to be addressed.

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

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

For the record the Board was in receipt of one item as follows: C-18, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications.

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 10:10 p.m.