



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

October 18, 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 October 18, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Clerk Wittrup, and Board President Islas. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present.

For the record, Board Member Levine participated from the teleconference location as follows: Hotel Washington, 515 15th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20004, open to the public; and, pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (B)(2), all action taken during this teleconferenced meeting was by roll call vote.

Board President Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:42 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received twelve (12) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name and summary of topic are as follows:

1. Thai Vang: Read a letter on behalf of Chi Neng Vang regarding the negotiations between the Fresno Teacher's Association and Fresno Unified School District.
2. Pa Houa Yang: Parent of Fresno Unified students and expressed hope the district and the Fresno Teachers Association can come to an agreement, so student lives are not impacted by the strike.
3. Serenity Lee: Expressed worry about the possible strike and worried about the disruption to schoolwork and academic progress.
4. Daizy Vang: Expressed concern about child's education and mental health and what effect a possible strike will have. Would like both sides to do what is best for students.
5. Cindy Lor Yang: Did not come to the podium.
6. Bao Vang: Expressed hope the Fresno Teachers Association and the district can come together on terms. Expressed concern about the anxiety her daughter is experiencing due to a possible strike.
7. Nancy Xiong: Urged the Board and FTA to come together to work for the

- students. Concerned about the strike on top of the learning loss students experienced during the pandemic as well as the wellbeing of students.
8. Esmeralda Salcedo: Concerned because her child does not want to go to school if there is a strike. Requested the district and FTA come to an agreement.
 9. Pastor Gana Flores: Commented that the strike is not good for anyone.
 10. Irma Reyes: Spoke against a teachers' strike.
 11. Claudia Palayo: Shared comments on behalf of her son regarding not understanding why there may be a strike.
 12. Mai Yeng Xiong: Commented on satisfaction with the district's proposal to teachers.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:11 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session extended to 6:15 p.m.

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

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:42 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Clerk Wittrup the Board acted in Closed Session on a complaint appeal to accept the panel's recommendation and decision by sustaining the findings and conclusion by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: Board Members: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk 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 Vincent Rios, Director in Fiscal Services, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Wittrup, and Board President Islas.
- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Clerk Wittrup the Board acted in Closed Session to promote Armen Karamanian to Director in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Matthew Pitcher led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

An opportunity was provided to hear comments/reports from Student Board Representatives from McLane High School.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Let me start my remarks tonight with the elephant in the room. Last week we provided an updated offer to the Fresno Teachers Association (FTA), increasing our offer for salary, healthcare, class size reduction, and many more important areas. We have asked for a written response by the end of this week. However, as we speak, FTA is gathered at the Fresno Fairgrounds to take their strike authorization vote. While we've been talking about and preparing for a potential teacher strike for many months, I know that this is the moment when many realize the reality of a potential teacher strike. First, let me assure all our families, students, and staff – we are well prepared and will ensure that our schools stay open, safe, and full of learning for our children. That being said, we are under no false pretenses that school will be the same without our teachers in their classrooms – it will be hard, but our families and students deserve a safe and positive learning environment no matter what adult issues are causing disruption. Yesterday evening our families received a Frequently Asked Questions document via ParentSquare and this morning our staff received FAQs as well through ParentSquare. Both of those documents are also available on our website by clicking the “More Than Just a Classroom” photo on the district homepage. I'll answer just a few FAQs right now:
 - Will schools close during a strike? NO. Schools will NOT close – all schools will stay open, safe, and full of learning.
 - Will students just be sitting in gyms and cafeterias watching movies all day? NO. Students will be taught by qualified, credentialed, fingerprinted and background checked substitute teachers. Their classes may be larger those days, but they will be taught grade level, relevant curriculum on core subjects during days of an active strike.
 - Will anything be cancelled during the strike days? YES, everything outside of the traditional school day and after school programs will be cancelled and hopefully rescheduled. That includes sports, clubs, extra-curriculars, field trips, community meetings, and more. To be clear – school and after school programs will stay open during a strike.
 - Will there still be buses to take my students to and from school? YES. Only our bargaining unit members in FTA, mostly comprised of teachers, will be on strike. Bus drivers and all other staff are not legally allowed to strike and if they are found to be striking during their work hours, they will be subject to discipline.
 - If a student stays home during a strike will their absence be excused? NO.

- School is still open and safe, and students are expected to come to school.
- Can other employees outside of the FTA participate in a sympathy strike? NO. All other bargaining units have language in their collective bargaining agreements prohibiting a sympathy strike. Any non-FTA employee found to be participating in the teachers' strike will be subject to disciplinary action.
 - Can teachers send FTA flyers home with students or use school resources to communicate with parents about why they are considering a possible strike? NO. Per Collective Bargaining Agreement language, conducting union business during parent teacher conferences, such as disseminating strike-related materials, is prohibited.
- We also have additional security and nurses contracted to ensure the safety of all our students and campuses. These are just a few of the FAQs, so please head to our website or check your ParentSquare app for more information. I know this is top of mind for all of us, however, there is still much happening across the district so please indulge me in sharing some more updates and celebrations.
 - First, every October we recognize National Cyber Security Awareness Month, not only to create awareness, but to meet the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act. As you know, digital citizenship and cyber safety are critical to preparing our students for college, career, and life. During the week of October 16 - 20, all students K - 12 will participate in the district's Cyber-Safety Week, receiving at least one cyber-safety or digital citizenship lesson during this week.
 - We kicked off our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) meetings last week with Edison and Fresno High, and next week we have three LCAP meetings scheduled! On the 24 we will be at Roosevelt, the 25 at McLane, and the 26 at Sunnyside. All meetings start at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and childcare available. All families will receive a zoo pack for your attendance and participation! Just as a reminder, if there is an active strike on any of these days, these meetings will be cancelled and rescheduled.
 - Next week is Red Ribbon Week across the country! Our schools will be participating with lots of fun activities and lessons as we work to keep our students healthy and drug and alcohol free.
 - On Saturday, October 28 Fresno State's Black Student Success Initiative is holding their Super Saturday fair! From 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the Satellite Student Union families and students will be treated to important workshops and panels, a great keynote speaker, and connections to college for middle and high schoolers. Raffle prizes including a giveaway for Fresno State football tickets will be held, so don't miss this great event!
 - Last call for your Excellence in Education nominations! The deadline is October 27 so please take some time to nominate your amazing colleagues before then! You can find the link to nominate in your Employee Zone newsletter.
 - Congratulations to the Baird Middle School Minecraft esports team! They not only are the champions of the Fresno Unified Minecraft esports league, but they have earned the right to battle the champs of CURRO South Africa in the third annual International Championship! Please join us this Friday, October 20, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. to watch the match live on Twitch!
 - Last week we held a groundbreaking ceremony at Del Mar Elementary School to

celebrate a great new facilities project funded by Measure M. The project, eight years in the making, includes:

- A multipurpose room double in size from the original one built in 1947
 - A new early learning building and playground
 - Moving the offices from the center of the school to the front and creating a safer, single point of entry
 - A new library where the offices were
 - Expanding parking for visitors and staff
 - Improving pick-up and drop-off areas
 - Refurbishing modular buildings, and a
 - Larger area for the nurse.
- Thank you to all who are making these improvements a reality!
 - Shoutout to the Juan Felipe Herrera Leadership Club at Herrera Elementary School! They were moved to action when they heard of recent traffic and pedestrian tragedies around Fresno Unified schools. Students brainstormed ways they could raise awareness and educate their school and neighborhood about safety in school zones and created the SLOW for School Zones Campaign. On Friday mornings in October, which is also National Pedestrian Safety Month, Herrera and Terronez Middle School students and staff line the sidewalks of Church Avenue that run past their schools to promote safe driving and pedestrian safety in school zones. Drivers have shared their support by honking, waving and most importantly...by slowing down!
 - Exciting news from Fresno Adult School! It just received the Citizenship and Integration Grant worth \$450K. It's the only educational institute to have ever received this nationwide! This is especially impactful for our area because more than 23,000 people in Fresno County are eligible to be naturalized and this program gives them a pathway to citizenship. The funding will support in serving more than 200 constituents with free naturalization services and free citizenship/English language preparation, a process that otherwise would not be accessible to our community.
 - Congratulations are in order for Amanda Harvey, our Nutrition Services Director, who will be honored with the California Food for California Kids innovation award! Among many other accomplishments, the team held their first farmer's market at Phoenix Secondary last week, it was fantastic! Amanda will be recognized at the California Farm to School Network Conference on Tuesday for her work in expanding the Farm to School program in the Central Valley. Way to go Amanda and our whole nutrition services team!
 - I also want to send a shoutout to our College and Career Readiness team for their amazing Breast Cancer Awareness Month video! The team, led by Tyesha Hendricks, produced a fun, entertaining video to the "Hey Barbie" song. Trust me, you don't want to miss this one – check out our social media to watch! Great work team!
 - Last but certainly not least, last week we held a joint press conference with Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula to celebrate the Governor's signing of the Neng Thao Drowning Prevention Act. Let's take a look at a video highlight of that event.

- Neng was taken far too soon, and sadly is not the only Fresno Unified student who has been lost to drowning. We're proud to partner with Neng's family and our state in expanding our water safety programs, including free swimming lessons.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Davis: Provided shout out to Sunnyside High School Future Farmers of America.

Clerk Wittrup: Provided shout out to Baird Middle School and the Baird Leadership team and Ag teacher, expressed pleasure on having seen Baird's community garden and farmers' market.

On a solemn note, commented that the pain and anguish of a parent who has lost a child is no different no matter where in the world they live or their religion. Nothing justifies the killing, maiming, or abduction of children. Commented on UNICEF's call on all parties to protect all children from harm in accordance with international humanitarian law. Commented it is children, the most vulnerable, who suffer first and most and asked for a moment of silence for children in the Middle East who have lost their lives and for those who continue to be in harm's way.

Member Levine: Called for action around the Report of the Center of Public Integrity, pertaining to the disproportionate suspension rate of unhoused students. Would like to call attention to the issue and request a board communication on what the district has done to address the issue.

Member Cazares: Followed up on Trustee Levine's comments and asked for more information on what housing assistance is provided. Commented that if students do not have stable housing other services provided may not meet their needs as well as they could. Asked to be contacted if there is any way she can help to move this work as her day job deals with affordable housing.

President Islas: Congratulated Highlanders football team and commented she looks forward to being there when McLane wins the championship. Thanked Clerk Wittrup for her comments.

Requested a moment for a personal point of privilege to thank those who have reached out to her at this time. Shared it is uplifting and encouraging to know people care. Shared thanks for Heinz Hospice and the support they provided.

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, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk 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 October 04, 2023, regular Board meeting.

A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the September 27, 2023, and the October 04, 2023, regular Board meetings.

A-4, APPROVE Provisional Internship Permits

APPROVED as recommended, Provisional Internship Permit recommendations to rehire or hire upon Board approval.

A-5, APPROVE Variable Term Waiver for Bilingual Cross-Cultural, Language and Development Authorization

APPROVED as recommended, Variable Term Waiver requests for Bilingual Cross-Cultural, Language and Development Authorization for the 2023/24 school year.

A-6, APPROVE Variable Term Waivers for Career Technical Education Credential Holders

APPROVED as recommended, Variable Term Waivers for Career Technical Education teachers, who need the English Learner Authorization until their credential is cleared.

A-7, APPROVE Budget Revision No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2023/24

APPROVED as recommended, Budget Revision No. 2 for fiscal year 2023/24.

- A-8, APPROVE Agreement with Cullinan Education Center**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Cullinan Education Center. Cullinan will provide daily afterschool literacy tutoring for four hours per day at ten elementary schools as follows: Bullard Talent, Del Mar, Starr, Pyle, Malloch, Hidalgo, Tatarian, Adams, Aynesworth, and Kirk. Cullinan Tutors will be able to work with up to 75 students at each site in the course of the 2023/24 school year.
- A-9, APPROVE Agreement with Every Neighborhood Partnership**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Every Neighborhood Partnership (ENP) utilizing Literacy Campaign Funds. ENP will provide daily afterschool literacy tutoring for four hours per day at six elementary schools as follows: Anthony, Jackson, Columbia, Heaton, Powers-Ginsburg, and Krik.
- A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Recruitment Alley**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Recruitment Alley. Recruitment Alley will provide classroom support for students receiving special education services. The support will be provided through 100 paraeducator, paraprofessional, and paramedical staff as needed throughout the district due to vacancies.
- A-11, APPROVE Renewal Agreement with Halcyon Behavioral, LLC**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Halcyon Behavioral, LLC, the district's mental health and substance abuse provider for the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) health plan members.
- A-12, APPROVE Renewal Agreement with Physmetrics, LLC**
APPROVED as recommended, a renewal agreement with Physmetrics to administer chiropractic and acupuncture services on behalf of the benefit-eligible employees and retirees from January 01, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
- A-13, APPROVE Use of Individual Piggyback Contracts**
APPROVED as recommended, a list of three piggyback contracts for use during 2023/24 for efficient and cost-effective procurement. This is in addition to piggyback contracts approved by the Board previously, to allow for expedited purchases related to furniture, food service equipment, and replacement cameras and parts for school bus cameras.
- A-14, APPROVE Vendor Designation Per Request for Qualifications 23-30S3, Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning Services**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 22-30S3. The Board approved the RFQ on March 22, 2023, and a supplemental round to add vendors on August 08, 2023, to provide a pool of qualified vendors in the categories of Curriculum, Professional Learning, Indirect/Direct Student Services, and Professional Learning Initiative Services.

A-15, DENY Claim GL23-0501-9811

DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL23-0501-9811.

A-16, RATIFY Amendment to Agreement with Shifting Perspectives, LLC

RATIFIED as recommended, an amendment to the service agreement with Shifting Perspectives, LLC. The original agreement in the amount of \$43,200 is increased to \$64,200 due to an increase in the number of participating staff.

A-17, RATIFY Amendment to Agreement with WorkEd

RATIFIED as recommended, an amendment to the service agreement between the Extended Learning Department and WorkEd. WorkEd provided summer camp opportunities for 559 students from July 01, 2023, through July 28, 2023. The original agreement was to provide services to 480 students; however, due to high student and family interest, they agreed to increase their services to accommodate all students who signed up.

A-18, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for a project as follows: Bid 23-29, Duncan Polytechnical High School Electrical Panel Upgrade, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$4,800.

A-19, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for projects which have been completed according to plans and specifications as follows: Bid 23-29, Duncan Polytechnical High School Electrical Panel Upgrade; and, Bid 23-60, Bullard High School Gas and Sewer Line Replacement.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-20, OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION for the 2022-2025 School Years Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School and Fresno Teachers Association – Social Workers

For the record, Board President Islas opened the public hearing in the Matter of Public Disclosure and Ratification for the 2022-2025 School Years Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School and Fresno Teachers Association – Social Workers at 7:16 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on agenda item B-20.

For the record, Board President Islas closed the public hearing in the Matter of Public Disclosure and Ratification for the 2022-2025 School Years Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School and Fresno Teachers Association – Social Workers at 7:18 p.m.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, agenda item B-20 was ratified by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Wittrup, and Board President Islas.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received six (6) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Diego Tejeda: Shared thoughts of how important sports are to students and the winning status of the Hoover volleyball team. Spoke in support of continuing athletic programs during a possible teacher strike.
2. Zakoiyah Smith: Shared thoughts of how important sports are to students. Spoke in support of continuing athletic programs during the teacher strike.
3. Makayla Smith: Shared thoughts of how important sports are to students. Spoke in support of continuing athletic programs during the teacher strike.
4. Sophy Matott: Shared thoughts of how important sports are to students. Spoke in support of continuing athletic programs during the teacher strike.
5. Reeshamah Nolan: Requested the district to do all that can be done to minimize the impact to students during a possible teacher strike. Requested the Board vote no to shutting down athletic programs in the case of a teacher strike.
6. Charles Rocha: Spoke in support of teachers.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board received agenda item C-21.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:40 p.m.