



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**  
**February 21, 2024**

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 February 21, 2024, there were present Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. Superintendent Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D. was also present.

*Board Member Thomas arriving at 4:40 p.m., Board Member Cazares, arriving at 4:42 p.m., and Board Member Jonasson Rosas arriving at 4:43 p.m.*

Board President Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:39 p.m.

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

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:40 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 6:20 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:32 p.m.

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

- On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board acted in closed session to promote Carson Wood to Principal V at the Farber Educational Campus, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.
- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board acted in closed session to promote Guadalupe Ponce to Principal at Williams Elementary School, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Averie Lee, a student from Sunnyside High School led the Flag Salute.

## HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

The Board heard comments and reports from Student Board Representatives from Sunnyside High School.

## HEAR Report from Superintendent

- First, I want to thank Trustee Thomas and the Parent University team for holding a wonderful Edison Region Family Engagement Event this past Friday! More than 500 joined for this fantastic event enjoying food, fun, and learning and with all children leaving with new books to take home.
- I also want to give a shoutout to Design Science's academic decathlon team! At the recent competition, they took home 3rd place overall and were the most improved team with a 19% improvement in their scores from last year! A huge congratulations to Coach Lisa Portela and the entire team! Way to go!
- In other competition wins – a big shoutout goes to Greenberg 4th grader Alden Yang who won the district Spelling Bee! Grayson Dominguez, a sixth grader from Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School, placed second and Tara Plascencia, a fourth grader from Manchester GATE Elementary School, placed third at the fun event at Fresno High School's Royce Hall. Twenty-eight schools participated. Alden and Grayson will represent Fresno Unified at the Fresno County Spell-Off on March 19. Congratulations!
- Big shoutout to Kati Bergen and her students at Duncan for participating in the National Geographic Citizen Scientist's project! Check out this short video on their project which was also highlighted by ABC30! Great work all!
- Last but certainly not least, I want to shout out to our Customer Service Team and all schools and departments who have adopted Let's Talk! We're in our first year of implementation with Let's Talk, which is a tool aimed to help us better serve and understand the needs of those we serve. Let's take a quick look at a video on how anyone can use Let's Talk!
- So please, feel free to head to our website anytime to submit your questions or concerns through Let's Talk. Thanks again to all who are helping us expand this tool and better our customer service as a district.

## BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

**Member Cazares** congratulated the Hoover High School boys' basketball team and Coach Archie for making it to the Division II semi-finals; and the girls' basketball team and Coach for making it to the quarter finals. Encouraged folks to attend a Superintendent Search Listening Session.

**Clerk Davis** thanked Sunnyside High School for hosting the Student Advisory

Board meeting. Commented on the chickens and bunnies housed at Sunnyside. Thanked Sunnyside High School for hosting the Historically Black College and Universities caravan. Congratulated the Sunnyside High School boys' basketball team for making it to the semi-finals. Shared a shout out to the Cambridge Women's Alliance.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented on a request for information she made pertaining to school transfer requests. Member Jonasson Rosas asked for a status update and commented that this is an area for improvement. Requested a board communication regarding the Let's Talk program and how it integrates with other communication tools such as ParentSquare, School Messenger, Class Dojo, and ATLAS to name a few that are used by the district. Commented that with all the different platforms used it seems like information overload. Requested staff to be intentional with thoughtful thinking on how to streamline the process, make it an easier and better experience for parents and the community.

**Student Member Pitcher** shared regarding an idea of leaving a tangible legacy at Edison High School, such as a community space where students can reflect and get away from stressors. Thanked Superintendent Nelson, Paul Idsvoog, Jerry Jorge, and the entire facilities team for helping make the Peace Garden a reality.

**Member Islas** began comments on board policy 6154 but was informed by staff the discussion should be held for the consent agenda.

Member Islas shared an invitation to attend Reading Under the Stars, an event scheduled for March 08, 2024, at Norseman Elementary School. Member Islas provided a shout out to Duncan teacher, Kathy Beagan, who engaged ninth grade students in the National Geographic Citizen Science Project, and Member Islas shared an invite to view the project at Dunch Polytechnical High School.

**Member Thomas** thanked Maiyer and staff for helping with the Edison bike-a-thon held at Gaston Middle School, where students were trained on how to use bike lanes, cross the street, and approximately twenty to thirty bikes were given away.

### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda items**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-12, A-19, and A-20, which were pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

**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 regular Board meeting on January 24, 2024.
- A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes for the January 24, 2024, Board of Education regular meeting.
- A-4, APPROVE Position and Adopt New Job Description for Purchasing Technician II and the Classified Hourly Salary Schedule 260 Duty Days**  
**APPROVED and ADOPTED as recommended**, the new job description of Purchasing Tech II and the Classified Hourly Salary Schedule 260 Duty Days with Purchasing Tech II placement on G-36.
- A-5, APPROVE Revised Job Description for Purchasing Technician I and the Classified Hourly Salary Schedule 260 Duty Days**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the revised job description of Purchasing Tech I and the Classified Hourly Salary Schedule 260 Duty Days Salary Schedule with Purchasing Technician I with placement on G-34.
- A-6, APPROVE Revised Job Description for Noon Time Assistant**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the revised job description of Noon Time Assistant.
- A-7, APPROVE Design Science Middle College High School Graduation Date Change**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, a graduation date change for Design Science Middle College High School to Tuesday, May 21, 2024.
- A-8, APPROVE Graduation Agreements for the Class of 2024**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, four agreements for the Class of 2024 graduation ceremonies.

**A-9, APPROVE Agreement with Harrison Peters, Men of Color in Educational Leadership**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Harrison Peters, Men of Color in Educational Leadership to develop a mentor training program that supports the mentoring of aspiring leaders.

**A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Kraw Law Group, APC**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Kraw Law Group, APC, to provide legal consulting services to the Joint Health Management Board (JHMB).

**A-11, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with the Touchstone Family Development Center**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an addendum to the agreement with Touchstone Family Development Center in the amount of \$18,750.

**A-12, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Arbinger Institute**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an addendum to the agreement with Arbinger Institute to cover additional seminar dates requested to provide professional learning for leaders who did not attend the original seminar dates in July of 2023.

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

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented that there are several agreements within the district for professional services and as the budget deficit at the state level has increased, it will trickle down to the district, with that in mind there is a great need to establish metrics to review how dollars are invested. Agreements need to be scrutinized, and specific to this agreement asked which metrics were used, how does the district know this service was successful. Commented, it is not helpful in decision making when board members are not provided the specific reasons as to why staff or the district need to use a specific vendor. Member Jonasson Rosas commented she does not want to pull every agreement brought to the Board in order to get answers to information that should be included with the request, information such as what metrics were used, what measures were used, how many people were served, what is the timeline for results.

**President Wittrup** expressed appreciation for Member Jonasson Rosas's comments and concurred.

On a motion by Clerk Davis, seconded by Member Levine, the Board approved agenda item A-12 by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Islas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and President Wittrup. ABSTENTIONS: Member Jonasson Rosas.

**A-13, APPROVE Grant Application to the 2024 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program APPROVED as recommended**, a grant application to the 2024 Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program (FFVP) through the California Department of Education.

**A-14, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-40, Center for Professional Development Concrete Masonry Block Wall Installation APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 24-40, Center for Professional Development Concrete Masonry Block Wall Installation.

**A-15, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-41, Sunset and Viking Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, Energy Management System, and Boiler Replacements APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 24-41, Sunset and Viking Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, Energy Management System, and Boiler Replacements.

**A-16, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-42, Sunnyside High School Chillers APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 24-42, Sunnyside High School Chillers.

**A-17, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposal 24-32, Network Equipment for Internal Connections APPROVED as recommended**, information on Request for Proposal (RFP) 24-32, to replace and/or upgrade network equipment across school sites and facilities.

**A-18, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposal 24-37, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus Furniture APPROVED as recommended**, information on Request for Proposal (RFP) 24-37, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus Furniture.

**A-19, APPROVE Award of Request for Qualifications 24-05, Special Education Services APPROVED as recommended**, information on Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 24-05, Special Education Services, to qualify vendors for service.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-19. A summary is as follows:

**Member Cazares** commented that although the item seems routine in nature due to the fiscal impact of \$21.5 million the item should not be on the Consent Agenda but instead on the Conference and Discussion Agenda. Member Cazares requested staff to provide more information to help inform Board Members before they decide and because this item has such a big impact.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** asked Member Cazares if the item should be held in order to allow staff to prepare a presentation for the Board.

**Member Cazares** deferred to fellow colleagues as to if item should be tabled.

**Member Levine** asked staff if there were any reasons why the item should not be tabled.

**Member Cazares** commented she did not want to impact services to students.

**Member Thomas** asked if the item should be approved with the contingency that staff return with a presentation.

**Member Cazares** asked if the budget amount carries over.

**Member Islas** asked if the estimate is based on the potential cost of services of the specific vendors listed. Member Islas requested information on distinctions of services and asked if the information could be provided in a board communication.

Ann Loorz and Tangee Pinheiro, Ed.D. were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Member Thomas, seconded by Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-19 by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and President Wittrup.

#### **A-20, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies**

**APPROVED as recommended**, proposed revisions for seven Board Policies (BP) and one Administrative Regulation (AR) as follows: BP 1160 Political Processes; BP 2300 Conflict of Interest Code: Designated Personnel (DELETION); BP 5131.2 Anti-Bullying; BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention; AR 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process; BP 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment; BP 5145.7 Sexual Harassment; BP 6174 Education for English Learners.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-20. A summary is as follows:

**Member Islas** requested information on BP 6174 Education for English Learners. Member Islas commented that families of English learners have shared that at the time of a student's enrollment a Home Language Survey is provided to the family and dependent on the responses a student could inadvertently be enrolled as an English language learner although the student speaks English. The family is then challenged with a cumbersome process to get their child out of English learner status and families feel their children receive services they don't need and miss opportunities that could help their children advance. Member Islas asked if there

was anything in BP 6174 that addresses these concerns and streamlines a process, so families do not continue to face these challenges.

Member Islas asked if the district is better with reclassifying students. Member Islas requested clarity as to when the Board will receive a report regarding English learners. Member Islas referenced language in BP 6174 and requested staff provide an example of how collaborative learning communities take place.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented that children not living with parents such as foster youth might warrant additional investigation as language of home might not be the language of the student.

**Member Cazares** expressed thanks for the services in place and asked if there is an opt out on the Home Language Survey.

Sandra Toscano was available to provide clarity.

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

**A-20a, APPROVE Proposed Revisions to the List of Board Member Committees and Organizations**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a revised list of Board Member Committees and Organizations to which Board Members are appointed.

**A-21, RATIFY Agreement with Leadership Associates**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with Leadership Associates to facilitate a series of community listening sessions and conduct an online survey to solicit input from our students, staff, parents/guardians, and our community.

**B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**B-22, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Revision to the 2023/24 Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-22.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item B-22 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.



**B-23, OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION of the 2023/24 School Year Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and California School Employee Association, Chapter 143**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-23.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board ratified agenda item B-23 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

**B-24, OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION of the 2023- 2026 School Years Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-24.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board ratified agenda item B-24 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

**B-25, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Local Control and Accountability Plan Educational Partner Feedback and the Mid-Year Report**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-25.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item B-25. A summary is as follows:

**Member Levine** requested clarity as to what years are represented on Slide 16, specifically suspension rates and chronic absenteeism. Requested clarity as to the mental health center mentioned as one of the top thoughts in the presentation. Requested clarity as to the top thought pertaining to food whether the thought addresses more time to eat, or quality of food offered.

**Member Cazares** requested clarity as to what community-based organizations were invited to participate. Thanked Ms. Harvey for work at Nutrition Services. Requested clarity as to employee participation rate from last year and asked if there were incentives that could be added to encourage employee participation.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented on declining attendance from past years at the Roosevelt Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) meeting. Commented on the district having good partnerships with community-based organizations that could help with LCAP feedback. Commented on liking past presentations as information was broken down with more specificity.

**Member Islas** commended staff for a good presentation. Commented on information presented on Slide No. 6 and glad meaningful engagement is happening; also Slide No. 7 the benefit of Thought Exchange allowing for multiple languages. Commended Ms. Harvey and the work taking place at Nutrition Services, commented students are the end-users and there is still work to do. Commented on the importance of encouraging breakfast and lunch participation especially in the elementary schools.

Commented in regard to the LCAP the district does improve every year and Member Islas would like to continue to do what is working, such as community-based organizations as they have built relationships with families and some of the harder to reach community.

**Member Thomas** suggested the district have an online LCAP option to make it easier for parent and community participation.

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

For the record, the Board was in receipt of C-26, Receive the Fresno Unified School District Second Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2023/24.

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

For the record, the Board received two (2) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Bob Mitchell: Shared disappointment on the district's handling of the murals at Edison High School.
2. Steven Fabela: Shared an idea of the district utilizing bus transportation to take students and families to see Christmas Tree Lane.

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:14 p.m.