



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**  
**March 06, 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 March 06, 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 Cazares arriving at 4:42 p.m. and Board Member Thomas leaving at 7:40 p.m.*

Board President Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:37 p.m.

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

For the record, the Board received five (5) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Manuel Bonilla: Commented that cancelling the Designated Schools program is a violation of the bargaining agreement.
2. Andrew Colburn: Commented that it does not make sense to cut teacher pay.
3. Claudia Silva: Advocated for the Designated Schools program.
4. Catherine Uribe: Advocated for the Designated Schools program.
5. Jason Stansell: Commented the rainy-day fund should be used for budget issues. Advocated for the Bullard TALENT Forensic Team and addressed fundraising challenges being faced. Requested the Board to sponsor the team.

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:51 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 7:37 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:41 p.m.

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

- On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to promote Darrin Person to Executive Director in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 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 Clerk Davis, seconded by Board President Wittrup, the Board acted in closed session on Resolution No. 24-44, to reassign certificated teaching staff to classroom teaching positions, 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 Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board acted in closed session on Resolution No. 24-46, to release an employee from an administrative position at the end of the 2023/24 school year and reassign the employee in accordance with their credentials, 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 Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board acted in closed session on Resolution No. 24-47, to notify certificated administration of a potential reassignment to a lower duty year for the 2024/25 school year, 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**

Vangie Carrillo led the Flag Salute.

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

There were no reports this week.

### **HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- March is full of recognition! This month we celebrate and honor Women's History Month, National Social Work Month, Art Education Month, Music in our Schools Month, National Nutrition Month, and this week is National School Breakfast Week! We hope you're all celebrating at our schools and keep an eye out on our social media for ways to share and be highlighted.
- We've also been putting a big focus on attendance lately! To see our students achieve their greatest potential, attendance is the first and most important step.

- Parents, we need your help making school a priority every day, giving our kids the learning time they need and deserve. And staff, you play a huge role in making our students want to show up every day! Thank you for welcoming them in the morning and making your classrooms a place where they are nurtured and supported. We all play a role and ensuring our students are at school learning each day. Every Day Counts!
- Families and staff, our Spring Climate and Culture Survey is now open! You should have received information and a link to participate on ParentSquare earlier this week. You can also head straight to our website and find the survey links through our homepage. These surveys every Fall and Spring help our district and our schools know what we're doing well and what we can improve upon. Please make your voice heard!
- Please join us tomorrow for the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools Spill the Tea event celebrating Women's History Month! Participants will enjoy a high tea experience while hearing from a panel of female student leaders and a panel of amazing local female leaders from several different industries! Tickets are available on the Foundation's website at [foundation4fusd.org](http://foundation4fusd.org) under the events tab.
- The Foundation's annual Suit Drive is also coming up from March 18th through the 22nd. Last year, your support helped bring in more than 2,000 items. Let's exceed that total! Drop off gently used professional wear at the Professional Development Center on E Street or here in the Education Center. Be a part of shaping students' futures, one suit at a time.
- I've got several amazing shoutouts and congratulations to share this week as well:
  - Congratulations are in order for Patino School of Entrepreneurship for being named a California Distinguished School! Patino is one of just 293 middle schools and high schools across the state selected for prestigious recognition. Schools were selected by analyzing data reported through the 2023 Dashboard, with a focus on demonstrating excellence and growth in academic achievement and ensuring a positive school climate. Schools are recognized for exceptional student performance based on achieving exemplary performance in English language arts and math, reducing suspensions, and demonstrating high graduation rates.
  - Congratulations also go to Cambridge who has been named a Model Continuation High School! Model Continuation High Schools excel and provide exceptional opportunities for their students to pursue academic and social success. Cambridge will retain their Model Continuation High School status for three years and will be recognized at the CCEA Plus 2024 State Conference next month. Congratulations to Principal Pulos and the entire Cambridge team!
  - Shoutout to Sunnyside Teacher Jeannette Vestal who was featured in the Next Gen Personal Finance February newsletter for her work supporting financial literacy in the classroom. For nearly a decade, Jeannette has focused on financial life skills in her lessons. She brings a special passion and creativity to her work teaching high school students receiving mild to moderate special services. Congrats on the much-deserved recognition, Mrs. Vestal!

- Congrats also go to our Duncan JROTC drill team cadets who placed first in the Central California Drill Competition! Our students competed in Color Guard, Unarmed Standard, Unarmed Exhibition, Armed Standard and Armed Exhibition, practicing at 7am every school day and after school three days a week for months. They are led by retired TSgt. Michael Frank, who is also an aerospace science instructor at Duncan. The Duncan team is the current field meet champions, drill meet champions and valley drill champions. Way to go cadets!
- Last but certainly not least, I want to shoutout the Instructional Division and Parent University for a fantastic Literacy Celebration in honor of our Every Child Is A Reader initiative, working to ensure that every student can read by the end of 1st grade. Let's take a quick look at a video highlighting the event.
- Well done teams! Ensuring our students and families have the tools, resources, and books at their fingertips to support literacy is crucial to the success of our Every Child Is A Reader plans!

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**Member Cazares** commented there are district baseball fields that could use some help. Commented baseball fields do not get the same level of investment as other sports, so it falls on parents to fund raise, and coaches to come in on the weekends to prepare the fields. Commented there may be a need for a special analysis for sports that require more intervention.

Member Cazares highlighted National Nutrition month and the Fresno Unified School District Nutrition Services.

Member Cazares heartfully thanked those that participated in the superintendent search listening sessions and surveys, as the input received is valuable and will help guide the Board when selecting a new superintendent.

Member Cazares shared she had the honor to read to students in grades first, third and fourth at Eaton and Robinson as part of Read Across American and will be at McCardle, Viking, and Vinland next week. Member Cazares shared it invigorates the soul to read to students.

Member Cazares reminded everyone to remember older students during the reading initiative and asked for a strategic plan of services for older students.

**Member Islas** provided a shout out to Patino for being listed as a California Distinguished School, and Duncan for their fantastic work. Member Islas shared that Board members are privileged in their role by being able to participate in Read Across American and it is warming to read to students in the classrooms.

Member Islas shared a shout out for teacher Shannon Ito at Norseman who is part of the American Sign Language program. Member Islas joined Shannon and visited classrooms. Member Islas made a request for a need analysis for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. Member Islas shared that one challenge within the program is the need for substitutes that can sign. Member Islas would like the district to explore how the district is incentivizing opportunities for community members to enter paraprofessional pathways to help fill specific needs.

Member Islas would like the district to find a way for a speech language pathologist at Norseman to attend a conference. The speech language pathologist also signs, and Member Islas commented this is rare to find.

Member Islas commented that students deserve better to ensure their safety on the way to school, and requested the district explore other models of how to staff crossing guards at schools. Member Islas requested the district revisit the idea of providing noon-time assistants with an additional thirty minutes and a cost analysis.

Member Islas thanked Paul and the team for bringing the new cafeteria at Ericson Elementary School closer to completion.

**Student Member Pitcher** provided a shout out to Edison High School and Computech Middle School for participating and placing at the Fresno County Science Olympiad. Computech placed first and Edison placed second and qualified for State.

Student Member Pitcher recognized National School Breakfast Week and commented he loves blueberry parfaits.

**Clerk Davis** referenced comments made before closed session and requested the district research reasons hindering the Forensic Team from fund raising. Clerk Davis asked if there is an opportunity for district scholarships when teams representing the district move to state and national competitions.

Clerk Davis shared she participated in Read Across America and read to students at Ayer, Greenberg, and Storey. Clerk Davis thanked Parent University for hosting the, Every Child is a Reader Celebration at No Surrender.

Clerk Davis thanked the community for providing feedback on what they would like to see in the next superintendent.

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

For the record, the Board received one (1) request to address the Board on the Consent Agenda. The Individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Itzi Robles spoke in support of agenda item A-4, Adopt Resolution in Support of the CalKIDS Program, on behalf of Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula.

For the record, Staff pulled, from the consent agenda, items A-9, APPROVE Addendum to the Agreement between RSS Consulting, LLC and Fresno Unified School District for New School Bond 2024 Equity-Based Facilities Planning; and, A-11, Approve Property, Liability, and Cyber Insurance for 2024/25; therefore, no discussion or action took place for items A-9 or A-11.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-4, A-6, A-7, A-8, A-9, A-11, A-14, and A-16, which were pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

**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 February 21, 2024.

**A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes for the February 21, 2024, Board of Education regular meeting.

**A-4, ADOPT Resolution in Support of the CalkIDS Program**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution 24-41 in the Matter of Commitment and Support of the CalkIDS Program.

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

**Member Levine** advocated for the CalkIDS program and shared highlights of the program such as, beginning July 2021 all newborns automatically have money

deposited into an account for college; all students in grades first through twelve have \$500 waiting in a college savings account; and studies show students with money in an account for college are more likely to attend and graduate from college.

Member Levine shared students need to claim these accounts and requested the Superintendent bring a plan to the Board to strategically message the CalKIDS program. Member Levine commented that this compliments the Bulldog Bound program.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** thanked Member Levine and Itzi Robles for their comments. Member Jonasson Rosas shared personal challenges faced when trying to enroll in the CalKIDS program and looks forward to the opportunity of creating an easier process for Fresno Unified families.

**Member Islas** offered full support of the resolution and thanked Itzii Robles for attending and speaking at the meeting. Thanked Member Levine for being the Board's internal champion of the program. Member Islas commented from a personal perspective and shared that dollars in a savings account make a difference, no matter the amount as long as there is thought about sending students to college.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Islas, the Board adopted Resolution No. 24-41 by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

**A-4a, ADOPT Resolution 24-42 for 2024-2025 Regarding the Elimination/Layoff and/or Reduction in Force for Permanent Classified Employees**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution 24-42 regarding the elimination/layoff and/or reduction in force for permanent classified employees in the 2024/25 school year. Pursuant to Education Code sections 45117 and 45308, it has become necessary to eliminate or reduce classified positions due to lack of work or lack of funds for the 2024/25 school year.

**A-4b, ADOPT Resolution 24-43 for 2024/25 Regarding the Reduction or Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Services**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution 24-43, regarding the reduction or discontinuance of particular kinds of services in the 2024/25 school year. Pursuant to Education Code section 44955, it has become necessary to reduce or discontinue particular kinds of certificated services for the 2024/25 school year.

**A-5, ADOPT Resolution 24-37, Requesting an Exemption Renewal from the Education Code Definition of “School Building” for a Tutoring Center through the African American Academic Acceleration Program**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution 24-37, and Exemption Request Form, State Allocation Board (SAB) 406 to request an exemption renewal from the definition of a “school building” for the Bethesda Apostolic Church buildings, located at 3723 E. Dakota Avenue in Fresno, for use as a Suspension Tutoring Center by the Office of African American Academic Acceleration.

**A-6, APPROVE Agreement with the California Association of Directors of Activities**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an Agreement with the California Association of Directors of Activities (CADA) Central for the purpose of attending the CADA/California Association of Student Leaders (CASL) annual conferences and conventions.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-6. A summary is as follows:

**Member Jonasson Rosas** first provided context for several items on the agenda and how they relate to the current budget situation, and being mindful that dollars can be used for multiple purposes, especially now the district is in contraction mode decisions need to be weighed more closely. In the past the district was blessed with one-time funds but now the discussion is about contraction.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked how the district benchmarks to show value for the investment.

Bryan Wells, Natasha Baker, Ed.D., and Superintendent Nelson, Ed.D. were available to provide clarity.

Superintendent Nelson, Ed.D., requested guidance from the Board pertaining to field trips, conferences, and items related to Goal 2 that may be difficult to quantify from a qualitative perspective. Asked if the Board is amenable to sharing their legislative intent as to what should be measured. This is an area where substantive conversations are needed.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that relativity should be addressed as there are multiple student leadership opportunities which have not been evaluated as to which one is a better investment. Especially now with the budget situation, Member Jonasson Rosas quantifies the cost as a position, a person within the district.



Member Jonasson Rosas has some pause not only with this item but with similar agreements. Member Jonasson Rosas is uncomfortable programming out further than July, until the May revise. Member Jonasson Rosas is not sure the district has adjusted thinking to the new budget reality and does not say this item is not worthy but asks if it is the best option now. Member Jonasson Rosas will vote No until sure an item is the number one option and other similar items are cut.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board approved agenda item A-6 by a vote of 5-1-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. NOES: Board Member Jonasson Rosas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

**A-7, APPROVE Agreement with UnaMesa Association dba InPlay**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with UnaMesa Association dba InPlay, which has a Student Data Privacy Agreement with the Fresno Unified School District Information Technology Department valid until April 2026.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-7. A summary is as follows:

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented on having the opportunity to speak on some of the challenges pertaining to this application, and asked if this agreement fixes those issues.

Maiyer Vang was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item A-7 by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

**A-8, APPROVE Addendum to the Agreement with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) to Conduct a Community Survey Regarding a Potential Bond Measure**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an addendum to the agreement with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) to conduct interviews in three languages, including additional polling of 100 likely voters in Trustee Area 7 which resulted in a survey with 821 respondents in English, Spanish and Hmong. Staff is requesting \$54,000 to support the additional services conducted to gauge voter continued interest in a potential 2024 bond measure to continue school facility improvements post Fresno Teachers Association (FTA) Negotiations October 2023.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-8. A summary is as follows:

**Member Jonasson Rosas** requested clarity as to the expansion of polling in only one trustee area. Requested clarity as to why the item is coming forward for approval rather than ratification as the work has already been completed. Member Jonasson Rosas commented it seems unusual to do only for one trustee, and as a trustee Member Jonasson Rosas would have wanted additional information for Trustee Area 2.

**Member Cazares** requested clarity as to why a poll was taken in trustee area 7. Member Cazares agreed some trustee areas have more acting voters than others and also agreed the option of additional polling should have been messaged to all board members.

**Member Levine** recalled receiving information during an FM3 meeting regarding push back in the Bullard regions. Member Levine agreed the district has room for improvement when items are brought for approval after the fact.

Paul Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board approved agenda item A-8 by a vote of 5-1-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. NOES: Board Member Jonasson Rosas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

**A-9, APPROVE Addendum to the Agreement between RSS Consulting, LLC and Fresno Unified School District for New School Bond 2024 Equity-Based Facilities Planning**

**ITEM PULLED BY STAFF**, no discussion or action taken.

**A-10, APPROVE Grant Application to the California Department of Education for the Golden State Pathways Program**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a request for approval of a grant application to The California Department of Education for the Golden State Pathways Program to enhance an integrated sequence of courses that includes Career Technical Education (CTE), expand work-based learning experiences, and provides comprehensive student support. The Golden State Pathways Program Planning and Implementation Grant is to provide local educational agencies with the resources to promote pathways in high-wage, high-skill, high-growth areas, including technology, health care, education, and climate-related fields.

**A-11, APPROVE Property, Liability, and Cyber Insurance for 2024/25**

**ITEM PULLED BY STAFF**, no discussion or action taken.

**A-12, APPROVE Use of Individual Piggyback Contracts**

**APPROVED as recommended**, one piggyback contract 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 replacement cells and filters for plugin air purifiers.

**A-13, RATIFY Change Orders**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on Change Orders for projects as follows:

Bid 22-21, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus  
Change Order 8 presented for ratification: \$318,177

Bid 22-22, Multipurpose Room Audio/Visual System Upgrades at Various School Sites – Group B  
Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$0

Bid 23-09, Sunnyside High School New Career Technical Education Health Science Building  
Change Order 2 presented for ratification: \$200,072

Bid 23-15 Section A, Holland and Wishon Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Energy Management Replacement Project.  
Change Order 2 presented for ratification: \$-39,071

Bid 23-15 Section B, Del Mar and Roeding Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Energy Management Replacement Project  
Change Order 2 presented for ratification: \$-41,423

Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multipurpose Building and Interim Housing  
Change Order 3 (Multipurpose Building) presented for ratification: \$53,664

Bid 23-61, Classroom Audio/Visual Equipment Removal  
Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$25,350

**A-14, 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 22-22, Multipurpose Room Audio/Visual System Upgrades at Various School Sites – Group B; and, Bid 23-34, Roosevelt High School Interim Housing.

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

“Agenda item A-14 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, concerns ratification of a Notice of Completion for Roosevelt High School Interim Housing Bid 23-24.

My residence is located within 500 feet of the southwest edge of the property comprising the Roosevelt High School site. Despite this proximity, this ratification will have no measurable financial impact on my property because this project was for two portable buildings which will be used during modification of the administration building, library, west hall, and theater which are already in place and part of RHS.

Moreover, the impact 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 of this notice of completion pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270 for the express purpose of avoiding the appearance of any conflict.”

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item A-14 by a vote of 5-0-1-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas. ABSECTIONS: Members Jonasson Rosas

**A-15, RATIFY Purchase Orders from December 01, 2023, through December 31, 2023 – Primary Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from December 01, 2023, through December 31, 2023 – Primary Report. 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-16, RATIFY Purchase Orders from December 01, 2023, through December 31, 2023 – Supplemental Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from December 01, 2023, through December 31, 2023 – Supplemental Report.

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

“Agenda item A-16 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains agreements with Hands-On Central California. Hands-On of Central California, operates as the fiscal agent for the Fresno Street Saints. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno Street Saints. I did not participate in the making of the agreements related to this agenda item; however, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

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

“Agenda item A-16 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, contains purchase orders for California State University, Fresno, CSU Fresno Association, CSUF Association Food Service, the CSUF/Downing Planetarium, and Fresno State University. I am currently employed by California State University, Fresno.

Additionally, item A-16 also contains purchase orders with the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, and I have been employed by Fresno County EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation.

I did not participate in the making of the purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with both Fresno State and Fresno EOC I have a remote financial interest in those purchase orders.

Therefore, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item A-16 by a vote of 4-0-2-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas. ABSECTIONS: Members Jonasson Rosas and Levine.

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

### **B-17, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2023/24 Second Interim Financial Report**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-17.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board approved the 2023/24 Second Interim Financial Report, by a vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

## **B-18, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Initial Proposal for the 2024/25 Budget**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-18.

For the record, Board members had comments and/or questions pertaining to agenda item B-18. A summary is as follows:

**Member Levine** requested clarity as to when the district will know what option the Legislative Analyst Office has chosen. Requested clarity as to whether Safety is the only department not seeing cuts. Requested clarity as to whether cuts will take place in Ethnic Studies.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented it seems the district will see savings in the 2023/24 budget, and if the district has already contemplated those savings. Requested clarity as to if the \$30 million gap is already decreased by those savings. Requested clarity as to whether there are anticipated cuts to alternative education. Commented on having discussed the importance of safe routes to school but when considering cuts to LVNs, literacy coaches, and trainings for substitutes the \$300,000 for safe routes to schools could be postponed making sure there is enough to invest in those areas being cut; formally believes in safe routes to schools but the \$300,000 is better spent in LVNs and other areas mentioned.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested more information be provided pertaining to the programmatic impacts to the A4 department, what programs will be cut, what decision-making was used, and how programs were prioritized.

**Member Islas** commented that Adult Education is a jewel within the district and would benefit from enhanced communication and marketing. Member Islas would like the district to find more robust ways of increasing student enrollment at the adult school. Member Islas does not see it addressed in the proposed budget plan and it has been an increasing concern for a while.

Member Islas commented on safety and safe routes to school and asked if the work could be imbedded within the role of the 41 FTEs.

Member Islas commented that a full-time NTA is not needed at all campuses; that elementary campuses should be prioritized and need more robust crossing guards. Member Islas did not say middle and high school campuses would not benefit but middle and high school students are more autonomous and visible than elementary students. Additionally, having more robust infrastructure would encourage more students to walk and would help in the long run of decreasing congestion around campuses.

Member Islas would like the district to look at other models of how to provide increased supervision during the drop-off and pick-up time at campuses as these are times when students are at more risk of injury. Member Islas commented that any dollar invested to support the safety of students is important and reminded fellow board members safety was an item families listed as important in LCAP discussions.

**Member Cazares** requested clarity on the information provided on the reduction in attendance graph in the presentation, asked if the decreased attendance is being seen at a specific grade or age and asked if there is a program on incentive in place to encourage students back to school.

Member Cazares requested clarity on information provided on slide eleven pertaining to the reduction in contracted nurses' services of \$2.6 million, and how the reduction will impact the health and safety of students.

Member Cazares referenced slide twelve of the presentation and addressed the \$75,000 listed for safe routes to schools education/implementation for 15 current pilot sites; commented on holding off adding additional sites until the district is sure work is being done well. Requested information as to how the \$75,000 will be used.

Member Cazares requested more information on the adult education program and commented it is not given enough attention and would prefer to have someone from the department provide the Board with a robust presentation; what does the program do, what is needed to promote the program and encourage attendance, what is needed to make the program a better school. The status quo is not the road to take.

Member Cazares referenced slide fifteen and the referenced reductions, and commented the Board has provided directions year after year that this work is a priority and reductions should not take place in a department serving a population already not receiving services, and the district is not any way near close to meeting the goals of advancing the level of education for African American students.

Member Cazares referenced slide sixteen and the referenced reductions to Alternative Education and requested information on how the reductions will not impact services to students at the Farber Campus.

Member Cazares requested additional information be provided pertaining to reductions on slide seventeen.

**President Wittrup** thanked staff for the presentation and time provided to Board members to debrief. Echoed comments of Member Jonasson Rosas and urged staff to evaluate contracts and spending carefully, as \$150,000 for a contract may not seem like a lot but it could be an employee's job position.

### **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 five (5) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Martha Soto advocated for the district to stand in support of Gaza.
2. Gloria Hernandez advocated for the district to stand in support of Gaza.
3. Elvia Olea provided key budget recommendations on behalf of Californians for Justice.
4. Ally Ayala shared from personal experience of attending a LCAP meeting. Ally commented that the meeting lacked promotion, youth, and meaningful engagement.
5. Hanna Frank shared as a student of Roosevelt High School and commented the LCAP meeting Hanna attended seemed to be performative and the LCAP did not reflect those it is meant to serve.

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 10:20 p.m.