



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
March 20, 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 President Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:34 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. Stephanie Maly: Expressed concern about the burnout of high school office managers, no raise in ten years, and the lack of feedback from the Human Resources Department.
2. Lori Bristol: Spoke on behalf of nine office managers expressing concerns about a class compensation study, salaries, and upgrades. Commented that the offered four-grade-level salary release is not equitable and not a living salary, and the offer is based on alleviating compression between middle and high school office managers, not on the value of their work. Commented that many positions in Fresno Unified received upgrades or changed salary schedules.
3. Brandy Liera: Discussed salary increases and changes and expressed concern that the other high school office managers have less resources than Sunnyside High School.
4. Taylor Hoyt: Expressed concern that the Special Education Department has had the reassignment of 50% of its Teachers on Special Assignment for the 2024/25 school year, causing a lack of dedicated support for the entire student population and requested the Board to reconsider the reassignments.
5. Shannon Avila: Expressed concern that the district's decision to return all Teachers on Special Assignment to the classrooms will result in a lack of support for students and teachers.

For the record, the Board received an additional two requests to speak.

6. Darius Assemi: Commented that the Board has a challenging task of hiring the next superintendent of Fresno Unified and asked them to please consider qualified candidates from across the state and nationwide. Requested the Board to announce the vote by name when reconvening from closed session.
7. Manuel Bonilla: Discussed the issue of designated schools and unilateral elimination without voice without cause and commented many teachers feel professional development has been eliminated. Encouraged the Board to ensure a fair and transparent superintendent search for the public and students and expressed hope that the best leader will emerge from the process. He looks forward to an open process that benefits the entire community, rather than just a simple selection process.

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:59 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 7:00 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 7:16 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:17 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board acted in closed session to promote Andrea Valdez to Principal II at Bakman 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.
- On motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board acted in closed session to dismiss charges for a certificated employee, 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.

Board President Wittrup gave a status update on the superintendent search as follows: "The board will now provide an update on the superintendent search. The various community meetings have been completed and additional updates will be provided at the next regular board meeting regarding the next phase of the search. Which will be interviews of internal applicants."

For the record, the Board voted to move unscheduled oral communications to follow Board/ Superintendent Communications.

On a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded by Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved the move of Unscheduled Oral Communications 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.

Member Jonasson Rosas introduced Roosevelt Student Timmy Phan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Timmy Phan a student from Roosevelt High School led the Flag Salute

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

The Board heard reports from student board representatives from Roosevelt High School.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Good evening to all joining us here in the Board Room and those watching online. We have amazing things happening across the district, so let me start with a few reminders.
- This week is the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools' second annual suit drive! The Foundation is collecting new and gently used professional attire from across the community to support our students as they go for job interviews, internships, college interviews and more. Last year the Foundation collected more than 2,000 items and this year they are set on more than doubling that number! If you have some donations to make, we have several places to drop them across the city. For staff, you can drop your donations here at the Education Center downtown or at our Professional Development Center on E Street. Community members, you can take your donations to Starbucks on Kern Street downtown, Neighborhood Thrift or Black Marketplace Vintage Boutique both in the Tower District, J. Crew in River Park, or Anthropologie in Fig Garden Village.
- Just a quick reminder the third annual IdeaFest is slated for April 20th on the west lawn of the Fresno City College campus. There are only a few short weeks left to reserve a booth for student projects. IdeaFest is a unique opportunity to see a showcase of our students' PBL work, which means project-based learning. Project-based learning methods mean our kids are creating and engaging in meaningful, real-world projects. The deadline for the art contest is this Friday and a few booths are left and available on a first come, first served basis!
- We have been talking about attendance a lot lately, and it is important we keep the conversation going. We recognize that ensuring good attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and overall well-being and there are so many things you can start doing right now, to see instant results and improvements. Consistency is the key to fostering good attendance habits. Establish routines for your student's bedtime, waking up, and attending class.

Ensure they have a quiet, dedicated space for schoolwork and prioritize school attendance by avoiding extended family trips and non-urgent medical appointments during school hours. Remember, seeking help from school staff, after-school program providers, or other parents and community agencies is always an option. There are resources that can help when getting your child to school becomes a challenge. We are here to help and do everything we can to make sure each and every Fresno Unified student has is able to achieve their greatest potential.

- Last reminder, staff and families please do not forget to complete the Spring Climate and Culture Survey! The deadline for responses is this Friday! Your feedback is critical to our school sites and how we continue improving to best serve you and our students.
- I have several amazing shoutouts and congratulations to share this week as well:
- First, I want to congratulate our very own Board Clerk Valerie Davis who is being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association, or SEFCEDA, Trailblazers for Prosperity Awards Luncheon next week. Clerk Davis is receiving this award for her extended contribution and service in promoting better skills and education for the residents of Southeast Fresno. Well-deserved Clerk Davis – congratulations!
- Next, I want to congratulate Mariah Mask-Johnson, an eighth grader at Sequoia, who was selected as the ACSA Region 9 awardee of the Every Student Succeeding award. Mariah now heads to the state awards in November where she is up for the statewide ACSA award. Mariah has persevered through challenges and has worked hard to get involved at school and build positive relationships. We are proud of you Mariah and will be rooting for you at the state awards!
- Also deserving of congratulations is DeWolf teacher, Aaron Ramirez, who has been named AMAE’s Educator of the Year! Mr. Ramirez is the CTE Construction Teacher at DeWolf and was recognized for his dedication to his students, his passion for education, and his ability to create positive, impactful connections. Congratulations and thank you Aaron!
- Watch out all! Kings Canyon has received their THIRD designation as a School to Watch! Schools To Watch are awarded by the California Department of Education as high-performing middle schools who must complete an extensive application, host a site visit by middle grades experts, and be reevaluated every three years. Congratulations to Principal Ailanjian and his team for this great honor! Keep up the magnificent work!
- Shoutout to our Edison and Bullard Forensics teams who are advancing to the California High School Speech Association’s State Championships next month! The teams competed across 17 events in a series of five tournaments to earn their spot to represent their schools and the district at the state championships. Splendid work to Edison and Bullard!
- Congratulations are also in order for our Communications team who received three state level awards at the California School Public Relations Association, or CalSPRA! This year the team took home awards of excellence and an award of merit. Excitingly among the recognitions was for our beautiful and innovative Faces of Fresno Unified magazine! Great work communications team!

- Shoutout to Trustee Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas, our Parent University team, and the entire Roosevelt region for a wildly successful Family Engagement Event at Roosevelt this past Monday! These are always well attended events with hundreds of families, but the Roosevelt region took it to another level with more than 2,000 families joining for the fun, resources, and learning! Amazing work Trustee and the Parent University team, seeing our families engaging is critical to our students' success!
- I also want to shoutout the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools for two big accomplishments! First, congratulations on your first Spill the Tea event celebrating International Women's Month and officially kicking off the Women's Affinity Group at the Foundation. The event included a panel discussion of student leaders and a panel discussion of female leaders across industries. The event brought together more than 150 women for a high tea experience, raising funds to support our students and schools. Check out our social media for a look at the beautiful event and thank you to all the panelists and moderators! Second, I want to congratulate the team, as well as our Counseling team and Communications team, for a huge increase in scholarship applications this year! Both last year and this year the Foundation has vastly increased the amount of money and scholarships available and along with it, they have had to vastly increase the number of students applying to receive that support. This year, we received 853 scholarship applications, a 44% increase over last year! I am so excited to review those applications and get more than \$400,000 in scholarships out to our Class of 2024!
- Last shoutout before we go, I want to thank everyone who participated in Read Across America this year by reading to our students. I especially want to thank the Board of Trustees who participated this year. Let us take a quick look at their time in our classrooms.
- Thank you again Trustees, we know this is just one of many times during the school year that you show up on behalf of bettering our students and our schools. Thank you!

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Jonasson Rosas expressed amazement for the success of the literacy event at Roosevelt, by the number of people in attendance and their engagement. Shared a favorite part of the event was the elementary students who met their reading goals and received medals. Thanked the community for supporting student literacy, and to Parent University and school site staff for their efforts.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity as to the student parent support program. Requested staff to help find a way to assist seniors who may not be able to afford picture day photos; suggested that the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools could help.

Member Thomas shared that today is World Down Syndrome Day and congratulated all the parents of special babies! Thanked staff for the invitation to attend the Spill the Tea event, apologized for missing the event due to surgery but shared plans to be at the next event. Thanked the Fresno Unified family for sending flowers and well wishes after the surgery.

Member Cazares invited students to attend the Adelante Mujer Conference, a leadership opportunity for Latinas, scheduled for April 13, 2024. Shared that students must register by March 22 for a chance to win an iPad, and you must be present to win.

Member Cazares congratulated Hoover High alumni A.J. George for making it to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament; Coach Archie for winning Coach of the Year for basketball, thanked Fresno Unified sports staff; and thanked staff involved in the Si Se Puede Conference at Fresno State.

Member Cazares recommended staff avoid parking on site concrete, sidewalks, and walkways due to easy breakage and budget constraints.

Member Islas provided information on the Latino graduation at the Save Mart Center on June 04, 2024, with early Bird registration on March 22. Asked seniors to please register, and donations go to the Educational Leadership Foundation.

Member Islas expressed gratitude to Coach Ramiro Teran for helping secure McLane as the venue for the Danzantes Unidos Festival, featuring 50 dance, music, and arts related workshops, March 22-24, 2024.

Member Islas provided a shout out to Duncan students for their panel presentation on their experiences and research. The students shared their future plans and the research they had done on financial and post-secondary education opportunities. Thanked Duncan staff for helping our students plan and prepare for their futures. Grateful for the students' interpretation of The Lorax and is happy to share them with others. Valued the opportunity to read and be with them.

Student Member Pitcher congratulated speech and debate teacher, Ms. Jennison, for coaching the team to nationals. Congratulated Edison High School History Day qualifiers for making it to the state tournament. Shared planting days for the Edison High School Peace Garden are March 24-25, 2024, and the garden will provide a green space for students.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received fifteen (15) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Darius Assemi: Requested clarity regarding the superintendent search update provided. Commented the Board should be proud of any action taken and should share information with the public.
2. Marisa Rodriguez: Commented on the termination of an agreement with CRE consultants due to public concern about their association with liberated ethnic studies. Commented the termination of the agreement has led to those teaching the ethnic studies course with a feeling of concern and a lack of trust. Requested to know where the Board stands on ethnic studies.
3. Shamara: Expressed concern about the lack of support for students with special needs in ethnic studies and questioned the Board's stance on empowering students to reach their full potential.
4. Isabella Garcia: Emphasized the importance of ethnic studies in school. Shared personal experience of taking African American and Chicano studies, which helped build community and understanding the history of people of color. Shared belief that schools should prioritize ethnic studies and hire dedicated teachers to ensure success.
5. Abraham Perez: Expressed concerns about the rollout of ethnic studies and the impact on students and the community. Expressed fear that budget cuts may force Edison students and families to choose between AP opportunities or ethnic studies, despite a \$2 billion budget.
6. Heather Miller: Shared concerns about the ethnic studies curriculum committee's policy requiring curriculum vetting by the Superintendent or designee. The only vetted curriculum was the first draft of comprehensive ethnic studies, which needed more work. Miller believes the policy's interpretation has broken trust between teachers and the district, and that teachers should stop teaching certain classes until a vetted curriculum is implemented.
7. Amy Sepulveda: Expressed frustration with the district's poor implementation of ethnic studies K12, including graduation requirements. Sepulveda believes the district lacks experience in ethnic studies and creates a culture of fear, putting teachers, students, and the community at risk. Sepulveda calls for qualified teachers, authentic community input, special education classes, and transparent partnerships.
8. Lauren Beal: Emphasized the importance of ethnic studies in the school district and shared personal experience teaching African American studies and how teachers of color faced isolation and disconnectedness. Beal advocated for a Board resolution supporting high school graduation requirements, staffing, and budget, highlighting the need for more support and resources for ethnic studies.

9. Uziel Jimenez: Advocated for the best K12 ethnic studies program in California and emphasized the need for training principals, counselors, and district leaders on ethnic studies to ensure equitable placements. Commented that empowering and training staff will ensure consultants with decades of expertise are chosen, and leaders are equipped to answer legitimate questions.
10. Isabel Jeronimo: Emphasized the importance of trained and capable teachers in ethnic studies and shared belief that the profession is personal and helps students find their voice and agency. Jeronimo highlighted the need for dedicated Teachers on Special Assignment to support teachers and consultants to facilitate training for new teachers. Commented that Ethnic studies reflects the community, and cutting resources from these programs sends a message that students' histories, cultures, and experiences are not important.
11. Mercedes Rodriguez: Emphasized the importance of training principals, counselors, and district leaders in ethnic studies. Shared a belief that lack of training can lead to confusion and lack of support for teachers.
12. Monserrat Ayala Hamas and Kimberly Vang: Commented on the lack of funding for ethnic studies at Edison High School and emphasized the need for a more comprehensive approach to unite students of different races and backgrounds.
13. Jesus Castillo: Shared his concerns about Chicanos Studies and expressed disappointment with the Board's decision to consider this class as an elective.
14. Celeste Magdaleno: Advocated for changes in the school, despite facing intimidation from the principal, and shared a belief that the school site council should provide parents with the necessary documents in their language to be able to make decisions regarding the Single Plan for Student Achievement.
15. Virginia Garnica: Requested clarification on the school site council at Rowell and the number of parents and representatives on the council. Shared concern that the school is not implementing proposed changes. Garnica shared that parents feel disrespect due to their English language skills.
16. Miguel Arias: Expressed concerns about school non-learning days at child's school. Shared a personal view that non-learning days have become routine and have violated the minimum structural minutes required by California and the focus should be on instructional time. Commented on the possibility of legal action to address the issue.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda items

For the record, the Board received one (0) request to address the Board on the Consent Agenda.

For the record, staff pulled, from the consent agenda, item A-20, DENY CLAIM GL23-0818-10519; therefore, no discussion or action took place for item A-20.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-4, A-5, A-7, A-8, A-13, A-14, A-15, A-17 and A-18, 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 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 24-45, In Support of Science of Reading Instruction in Fresno Unified School District

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution 24-45, affirming support for reading instruction aligned to the science of reading in Fresno Unified schools.

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

Member Islas addressed concerns about the implementation of science of reading, particularly requested assurance the district is not furthering any sort of linguistic oppression with the adoption of the resolution. Commented on focal areas within the dual immersion language program in which progress has been made, such as trans-language research, metalingual awareness, and cross-linguistic connections and requested assurance these would be enconced in the implementation in the district.

Erika Piedra was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved agenda item A-4 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

A-5, APPROVE Agreement between RSS Consulting, LLC and Fresno Unified School District for New School Bond 2024 Equity-Based Facilities Planning APPROVED as recommended, an agreement between RSS Consulting, LLC (RSSC) and Fresno Unified School District for New School Bond 2024 Equity-Based Facilities Planning.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-5. Summary is as follows:

Claudia Cazares expressed concerns of moving forward with this project when still unsure if the Board has received requested information on bond measure spending, not having had a facility planning workshop, and about the allocation of \$80,000 for a project that could provide equity and ethnic studies for teachers.

Andy Levine appreciated Paul and the team at RSSC for their flexibility and consideration in a challenging time. Expressed appreciation for the consideration and flexibility in determining how to be more fiscally conservative, especially in terms of facilities planning. Levine commented on excitement for the work to move forward and looking forward to the Board Workshop on April 29

Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas addressed the inequity in the distribution of funds in the Roosevelt region. Jonasson Rosas commented on having a third party objectively assess the situation is crucial for commitment to equity and equality and a belief the investment in this area is worthwhile for both the individual and the community, as it ensures that funds are spent in an equitable way.

Paul Idsvoog and Superintendent Nelson, Ed.D. were available to provide clarity.

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

A-6, APPROVE Agreement with the Trauma Resource Institute, Inc. APPROVED as recommended, an agreement between Fresno Unified School District, Department of Prevention and Intervention and Trauma Resource Institute, Inc.

A-7, APPROVE Amendment to the Agreement with Cullinan Education Center APPROVED as recommended, an amendment to the agreement between College and Career Readiness and Cullinan Education Center. The Board approved the original agreement on October 18, 2023. Two additional tutors will provide daily after school literacy tutoring to 73 students at Hidalgo Elementary School.

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

Member Cazares referenced a board communication regarding the site locations of Cullinan services and commented most seem to be in the Northwest area of Fresno and asked if the services are available throughout the district.

Member Jonasson Rosas suggested considering a list of private tutoring providers who could provide services in school; potentially, without district payment as this could be beneficial for parents who struggle with taking their children to tutoring, may allow parents to choose a few providers to provide tutoring at school, and create a win-win situation for everyone involved. Jonasson Rosas commented this could help alleviate the burden of taking children out of class for tutoring.

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

- A-8, APPROVE Amendment to the Agreement with J & D Mind Builders**
APPROVED as recommended, an amendment to the agreement with J & D Mind Builders, DBA Bricks 4 Kidz to cover the additional in-class workshops for first and second-grade classrooms. The amended agreement will ensure J & D Mind Builders DBA Bricks 4 Kidz will continue to service students through June 30, 2024.

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

Member Jonasson Rosas commented she would not vote on this item as there were no metrics associated to the agreement.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-8 by a vote of 6-1-0-0, as follows: AYES: Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. NOES: Member Jonasson Rosas.

- A-9, APPROVE Multiyear Agreement with Strategic Data Project Partnership to Enhance Department's Capacity for Data-Driven Decision-Making**
APPROVED as recommended, information on the two-year agreement with Harvard University's Center for Policy Research Strategic Data Project Partnership to Enhance Department's Capacity for Research.
- A-10, APPROVE Renewal Agreement with Marsh & McLennan Agency**
APPROVED as recommended, a renewal service agreement with Marsh & McLennan Agency for the provision of insurance consulting and brokerage services.

A-11, APPROVE Grant Application to the California Department of Food and Agriculture 2023/24 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program
APPROVED as recommended, the submission of the grant application to the California Department of Food and Agriculture 2023/24 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program.

A-12, APPROVE Property, Liability, and Cyber Insurance for 2024/25
APPROVED as recommended, summary of quotations received from the district's insurance broker, Marsh & McLennan Agency, for the district's various forms of coverage. Due for renewal is coverage related to property, general liability, designated lessees, excess liability, cyber and professional liability requirements. The policy period will extend from April 01, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

A-13, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-25, Education Center Board Room Remodel
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-25, Education Center Board Room Remodel.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-13. Summary is as follows:

Claudia Cazares commented that a \$4.6 million facility should be included in the facilities planning workshop, which has not happened in a while.

Clerk Davis requested clarity as to the specific room and number of rooms in the Education Center.

Member Islas commented on hearing concerns due to the cost of the project but is comforted that the higher cost is due to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and commented this is crucial for providing greater access for families and individuals. Member Islas supported the need for quick improvements to ensure greater accessibility.

Alex Belanger and Superintendent Nelson, Ed.D., were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board approved agenda item A-13 by a vote of 6-1-0-0, as follows: AYES Members: Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. NOES: Board Member Cazares.

A-14, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-43, Education Center Annex Interior Finish Upgrades
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-43, Education Center Annex Interior Finish Upgrades.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-14. Summary is as follows:

Claudia Cazares commented would like to see funds allocated for schools.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved agenda item A-14 by a vote of 6-1-0-0, as follows: AYES Members: Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. NOES: Board Member Cazares.

A-15, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-44, Edison High School South Administration Building Remodel

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-44, Edison High School South Administration Building Remodel.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-15. Summary is as follows:

Claudia Cazares commented that a facility planning workshop should happen before moving forward on facility projects.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-15 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

A-16, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals 24-29, Waste Management Services

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposals (RFP) 24-29, Waste Management Services for all district schools and central office sites.

A-17, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposal 24-53, Cellular Data Services for School Bus Connectivity

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposal (RFP) 24-53, Cellular Data Services for School Bus Connectivity to purchase unlimited cellular data services to provide connectivity of district school buses to the internet.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-17. Summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas thanked the students on the student advisory board for sharing their experiences with internet usage on school buses. Requested clarity as to if the data shows usage is used to access district information or for games and social media.

Tami Lundberg was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-17 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

A-18, APPROVE Vendor Designation Per Request for Qualifications 23-05S, Student Mentoring Services

APPROVED as recommended, Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 23-05S, Student Mentoring Services for addition of supplemental vendors to the qualified pool.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-18. Summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas commented on believing in the power of mentorship but is unsure of a standardized approach to evaluating all mentoring programs. Member Jonasson Rosas would like to understand the value of each program, its metrics, and expected outcomes. Additionally, Member Jonasson Rosas would like to see if any mentoring services have a specific focus on increasing attendance or reducing behaviors and suggested it may be beneficial to track student attendance and behavior across different mentoring services.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board approved agenda item A-18 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

A-19, APPROVE Fiscal Year 2024/25 Transportation Services Plan

APPROVED as recommended, information on the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Transportation Services Plan and revenue calculations developed in accordance with Education Code Sections 39800.1 and 41850.1.

A-20, DENY Claim GL23-0818-10519

ITEM PULLED from agenda. No discussion or action taken.

A-21, DENY Claim GL23-0913-9699

DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL23-0913-9699.

A-22, DENY Claim GL23-1214-10891

DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL23-1214-10891.

A-23, RATIFY Change Orders

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

Bid 23-02, Edison High School Career Technical Education (CTE) Building and Interim Housing
Change Order 2 (CTE Building) presented for ratification: \$31,539
Change Order 4 (Interim Housing) presented for ratification: \$19,293

Bid 23-66 Section C, Scandinavian Middle School Playground Equipment Replacement
Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$37,845

A-24, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for projects completed according to plans and specifications as follows:

Bid 23-15 Section A, Holland and Wishon Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Energy Management Replacement Project.

Bid 23-15 Section B, Del Mar and Roeding Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Energy Management Replacement Project.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-25, PRESENT and DISCUSS Portrait of a Learner and Portrait of a Leader

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 Jonasson Rosas suggested combining recurring themes in meetings such as the Local Control and Accountability Plan and English Learner meetings to make them less cumbersome for parents and increase participation.

Member Levine thanked staff for the presentation and requested an electronic copy of the Portrait of a Leader graphics.

B-26, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2024/25 Strategic Budget Development Phase II

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-26.

For the record, Board members had comments and/or questions pertaining to agenda item B-26. A summary is as follows: 2:25

Member Thomas expressed concerns about the budget, particularly regarding cuts to the step-up program and ethnic studies and requested clarity as to reason for reductions in programs running with as it were a one-man band. Member Thomas requested clarity as to why reductions are proposed to programs that are intended to support students already faced with deficits. Member Thomas requested to meet with staff to go over itemized proposed reductions and also who is recommending the reductions, commented if someone is not able to support a program then the program should be moved.

Member Levine requested clarity as to the expanded student-centered railroad learning experiences, and the carrying over \$49.3 million to assist with aviation facility construction.

Clerk Davis requested clarity regarding Teachers on Special Assignment and negotiated agreements, asked if there was a waiver that could be negotiated. Clerk Davis commented on the need to improve the completion rate of Free Application for Federal Student Aid applications and the need to make them more user-friendly for families.

Member Cazares requested clarity as to the proposed reduction in supplemental salaries in arts and music education, specifically asked what services or programs will no longer be provided. Requested clarity as to if proposed reductions will result in teachers performing extra work during their duty day. Commented this will not be beneficial for teachers who already have a busy schedule and therefore Member Cazares will not support a proposed reduction in supplemental salaries as listed on slide No. 6.

Member Cazares referenced proposed reductions listed on slides No. 8 and No. 9 and commented that the proposed reductions are for areas in which the Board, over the last eight years, has pushed for increases in support of the neediest students. Commented it is not the fault of students that positions such as social workers, counselors, and attendance specialists were left unfilled, and these are baseline supports for students that cannot be found elsewhere. Member Cazares commented that the proposed reductions did not balance well with the proposed additions

Member Cazares referenced during previous budget cycles of additional FTE being added for a position to head a program but then no additional funding provided to run the program, and commented on feeling the same is being done now.

Member Cazares requested an update on the agreement for green space maintenance at middle and high schools. Requested staff to look into room temperatures at school sites as concerns of it being too hot or too cold are frequently received.

Member Cazares referenced the proposed reductions to the Historically Black Colleges and University and Step-Up programs as well as Ms. Ponce's budget and commented it seems as Ms. Ponce is being asked to do the work of two people. Member Cazares commented on being unsatisfied with the proposed reductions to services and specifically travel in this area as traveling is what the Board has asked Ms. Ponce to do in order to open doors for African American students.

Member Cazares expressed concern about proposed reductions affecting essential services, supplies, and equipment for students in the Career Technical Education program, including field trips and library books.

Member Cazares emphasized the importance of prioritizing cultural exposure for pre-K students, despite budget cuts, and expressed gratitude for any support in ensuring these opportunities are not cut to the bare minimum.

Member Jonasson Rosas thanked staff for the opportunity to meet and discuss the budget. Commented that from an overarching perspective, it might be beneficial for Board members to share with staff their individual philosophies and priorities when it comes to budget reductions as there are different approaches to reductions. Member Jonasson Rosas commented it is challenging work and nobody wants to cut services for students.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that as it is with a healthy budget, in previous years people were overworked and there were areas that needed continual investment, and now the district is in a situation where we have to live with less and prioritize even more, and in many cases, ask people to do more with less. Member Jonasson Rosas commented it is challenging.

Member Jonasson Rosas shared personally, a first priority is students in classrooms and second is making sure staff are okay, minimizing the impact of reduction and layoffs as much as possible. Member Jonasson Rosas referenced asking about an extra \$70,000 for Lego kits, and commented it seemed secondary in comparison to the Step-Up program or the Latino Student Union.

Member Jonasson Rosas urged staff to think about each agreement in terms of, is this someone's job, before the agreement is brought to the Board for a decision. Member Jonasson Rosas commented that is how she will review going forward; especially if there are no metrics attached that demonstrate outcomes for students. Member Jonasson Rosas commented that metrics that demonstrate outcomes help in the decision-making process and help to save someone's job.

Member Islas commented on wanting to have everything but knowing can only have what can be afforded. Commented the Board has tough decisions to make. Member Islas commented that the process has been for staff to present their recommendations to the Board and the Board either agrees or disagrees and then directs staff to rethink the recommendations; and with this process Member Islas

commented it would be beneficial for staff to understand the values and commitments of Board members, to understand where it is easier for them to cut and where they absolutely do not want to see cuts.

Member Islas requested to know more as to how staff arrived at the recommendations and commented a conversation could take place during small group discussions which would also provide an opportunity for Trustees to share agreement or disagreement.

Member Islas commented that the ethnic studies conversation is hard personally because it is a required course, and it seems as if the program is being undercut before it has a chance to be established. Member Islas commented that what she heard from teachers was a request for the Board to renew their commitment to ethnic studies, to help sustain the program, a need for more positions, a need for trained and qualified teachers, and training for administrators so people are attuned to a history that has not been told but needs to be told.

Member Islas commented that she reflects on those requests in terms of how they compliment other things that need to happen, to Member Islas when looking at diversity, equity, and inclusion it is inextricable from the history because the history of oppression, discrimination, and racism is the reason for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Member Islas commented that ethnic studies are an opportunity for healing and understanding and sees its value beyond the classroom; that ethnic study is an area, if reductions are recommended, Member Islas would like to know the context in comparison to areas that have less to do with the educational outcomes.

President Wittrup expressed appreciation for the heartfelt comments made by Member Islas. Acknowledged the challenging financial situation the district is now faced with especially coming after 12 prosperous years. President Wittrup acknowledged the effort of all departments in reducing costs and expressed gratitude for their presentations.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of C-27, RECEIVE Constituent Services Quarterly Reporting.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 10:08 p.m.