



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
April 24, 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 April 24, 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 arrived at 4:40 p.m.

Board Member Thomas arrived at 5:25 p.m.

Board President Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:33 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received two (2) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Mary Fierro of the Fresno Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) thanked Superintendent Nelson for his leadership and shared information about Brave Lolis Learns English, a book authored by Armida Espinoza also a member of AMAE. A copy of the book will be given to each elementary school.
2. Armida Espinoza presented Superintendent Nelson and each board member with a copy of Brave Lolis Learns English.

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 7:00 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 7:10 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 7:20 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:25 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board President Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Cazares the Board acted in closed session to reassign Autumn Prestidge to Principal III at Malloch 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 a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded by Board Member Thomas the Board acted in closed session to promote Marion (Jahmaal) Sawyer to Principal III at Hamilton 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 a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded by Board Member Cazares the Board acted in closed session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Henry Hernandez, WC18-0726-1267 & WC19-0916-5034, 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 a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Jessie Singleton, WC21-0810-6509, 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.

For the record, Board President Wittrup provided a status update as follows:

“The Board has engaged in discussion regarding available options for the superintendent search and will provide additional information regarding the search plan at a subsequent board meeting.”

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Emily Dye and Jorden Tristan, students from Bullard High School led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

Board Members heard comments and reports from Emily Dye and Jorden Tristan Student Board Representative of Bullard High School.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Our teams are working hard to increase the adoption of CalKIDS among our students and I want to specifically shout out Roosevelt in their efforts. Last week through intentional efforts they were able to get 167 qualified students to sign up to claim their free money for college! Great work Roosevelt!
- Often, we hear about our deficits as a district, but that doesn't tell the whole story. While we have lots of work to do to help our students achieve their greatest

potential, our efforts are moving our students in the right direction. Our data team recently looked at our progress in comparison to 13 other large California school districts with comparable demographics and the results should motivate and validate the hard work happening all across the district. From 2022 to 2023, Fresno Unified ranked number one in the rate of decrease in chronic absenteeism overall and for almost all targeted student groups. Fresno Unified also ranked number one in our Distance From Standard change in mathematics overall and for Filipino, Asian, and Hispanic students. We also ranked third in Distance From Standard change in English Language Arts overall. Do not be fooled – the investments we are making, and the hard work being put in by our more than 10,000 employees is making a difference. Keep it up team!

- Shoutout to our Edison students who became National History Day-California champions for their Senior Division Group Performance project! They qualified for the National History Day championships in Washington, D.C. in June. The team is made up of our own Student Trustee Matthew Pitcher, Cate Chielpegian, Violet Mack, Mason Pitcher and Kyle Mrkaich. Edison students presented nine projects at the California state championships April 19-21 in Sacramento, with four projects making the finals. Other state finalists include Jeremy Montes, Liliana Beltran, and Amoni Allen. Congratulations and great work!
- Congratulations to the forensic teams from Edison, Bullard and McLane! They are headed to the National Speech and Debate Association's National Championships in Des Moines in June. The national championships are the largest high school academic competition in the world, with only the top 2% of forensics students qualifying. Students competed in 14 events, across three tournaments, for the chance to represent Fresno Unified and their schools at this prestigious event. Representing are Julissa Rios and Alys Garcia Cruz in DUO Interpretation from Edison, Hunter Ellis in Lincoln-Douglas debate, Samantha Costa in World Schools Debate and Addison O'Rourke in National Extemporaneous Speaking all from Bullard, and Evan Galvan qualified in World Schools Debate from McLane. Way to go! We will be cheering you on!
- A big thank you to Patino School of Entrepreneurship and their partners at Bloomberg Beta for another great Junior showcase! Junior teams of entrepreneurs were able to pitch their business ideas to professionals from Bloomberg Beta, a venture capital firm who invests in startups. Bloomberg Beta employees gave critical feedback to our students to continue refining their businesses and pitches. Feedback from some of the greatest funders in the business is HUGE for our young entrepreneurs and these contacts will go a long way in their futures. The business ideas presented were inspiring, seeing our entrepreneurs look to solve problems for families, elders, the environment, and so much more. Great work to the Patino team for nurturing these critical partnerships and for developing the next generation of amazing Fresno entrepreneurs!

- Shoutout to Fresno High School's Warriors winter guard! The Warriors defeated 10 schools from the Central Valley to take first place at the South Valley Winter Arts Association competition April 6 in Lemoore. The Lady Warriors had just been moved up a category and still went on to win the Regional a Gold for high school color guards. Awesome work!
- Congratulations to Elliot Garcia, a senior cadet in the Air Force JROTC program at Duncan Polytechnical High School! Elliot has been accepted into the Air Force JROTC Flight Academy. He will depart in July for Bowling Green State University for the two-month academy, where he has the potential to earn his private pilot's license from the Air Force. Elliot is the third cadet from Duncan in two years to be admitted to this highly competitive academy.
- Hoover's Dara Johnson was named the Central Section's Norm MacKenzie Rookie of the Year, awarded to an athletic director in their first four years on the job. She was honored at the annual California State Athletic Directors Association Conference in San Diego, where more than 700 athletic directors and administrators gathered. Congratulations Dara – thank you for all you do for our students!
- Congratulations are in order for Board Clerk Valerie Davis! Last week, Clerk Davis was surprised by receiving the 2024 Del Cederquist Board Member of Distinction Award from the Fresno County School Trustee Association. This is a very esteemed award, and they could not have found someone more deserving than Clerk Davis! Clerk Davis is part of a multi-generational family of Fresno Unified educators, has served our board for 20 years, and is incredibly involved and dedicated to the Fresno community as a whole. Congratulations Clerk Davis!
- We seem to have a new competitive trend emerging here with our Regional Family Engagement events! On Monday McLane hosted their event bringing together more than 3,500 families, again breaking the record for attendance! Students were awarded for their literacy gains and families were able to enjoy some beautiful performances, eat great food, and gather resources from across the district and community. Thank you to Parent University, Trustee Islas, and our entire McLane region for the efforts you put in to make this a fantastic event. We have one last regional event this year in the Hoover region – please join us on May 7th!
- A shoutout to our DEI division who put on the inaugural Multicultural Summit for our students! Let's take a look at this video sharing more about the event.
- Thank you all for your intentional efforts around DEI – it does not go unnoticed!
- Last announcement - get ready for a day of innovation, competition, and fun! This Saturday, Fresno Unified high school students will square off in Robotics and Drone tournaments at Sunnyside High School. Members of ClubRED robotics teams will compete against each other in a match combining soccer and basketball. Members of DRIFT Drone racing teams will show off their drone piloting skills using First-Person View goggles to fly drones in a dark room with illuminated obstacles! These competitions build skills in technology, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Students have been preparing for months, learning safety practices, building their robots, and flying drones. The competition kicks off at 8:00 a.m. at Sunnyside High School. The awards ceremony begins at 1:00 p.m. Parents and visitors are welcome!

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Islas thanked Maiyer Vang and the team at Parent University for the work putting the McLane Regional Family Night where over 800 students received medals for reaching literacy goals. Shared a shoutout to the McLane and Duncan medical academy for being one of 208 to earn the Naps Catherine Blastic Distinguished Award for 2023/24. Shoutout to Mayfair third to sixth grade students demonstrated increases from last year's scores in iReady. Thanked Armida Espinoza for sharing *Brave Lolis Learns English* with board members.

Clerk Davis invited members of the East Fresno Kiwanis to the podium to present an award to Fresno Unified School District for sponsoring Camp Oakhurst. Thanked Greenberg Elementary staff for their work with the Girl Power program and the students for the painting gifted to her.

Member Cazares congratulated Hoover High staff for passing the Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation. Congratulated Dara Johnson for being named the Central Section's Norm MacKenzie Rookie of the Year.

Student Member Pitcher shared invite to ribbon cutting for the Edison Peace Garden. Shared sustainability information pertaining to the Edison Peace Garden. Thanked the Facilities team for their work on the garden.

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 Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-11 and A-14, which were pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, 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 April 10, 2024.
- A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**
APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the March 20, 2024, Board of Education regular meeting.
- A-4, ADOPT Resolution 24-53, Proclaiming May 08, 2024, as National School Nurse Day**
ADOPTED as recommended, resolution 24-53, Proclaiming May 08, 2024, as National School Nurse Day.
- A-5, APPROVE New Job Description for Fence Erector**
APPROVED as recommended, the new job description of Fence Erector. This new job description reflects inclusion of language which more specifically identifies duties of a Fence Erector in Maintenance and Operations.
- A-6, APPROVE 2023/24 Salary Schedule Revisions - Classified Food Services Hourly Reflecting 8.5% increase, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Crafts Hourly Reflecting 8.5% increase, and Certificated Substitute Daily Salary Schedule**
APPROVED as recommended.
- A-7, APPROVE Agreement with Allied Universal**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Allied Universal. The Safety and Security Office, in conjunction with the Student Engagement Department, is partnering to purchase four portable weapon detection systems to use at athletic stadiums for games and outdoor graduation ceremonies. Additionally, Safety and Security plans to purchase a fifth weapon detection system for the Education Center.
- A-8, RATIFY Agreement with Nancy Akhavan Consulting**
RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement between Nancy Akhavan Consulting and Columbia Elementary School. Seven teachers received professional learning and dedicated mentorship, leading to the desired outcome of acquiring knowledge and skills related to the implementation of a comprehensive literacy program at their respective grade levels.

A-9, APPROVE Agreement with ProSolve for the 2023/24 Summer Academy
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with ProSolve to provide QUEST curriculum for the 2023/24 Summer Academy. QUEST course material, supplies, and portal access codes will be available to students attending Summer Academy. QUEST course material, curriculum, and professional development will be available to Fresno Unified teachers to help develop students' social and emotional skills and increase engagement.

A-10, APPROVE Agreement with WestEd
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with WestEd to provide support for affinity space development to build the capacity of White-identifying educators in the pursuit of our district's racial equity efforts.

A-11, APPROVE Amendment to the Agreement with Baltara Enterprises LP
APPROVED as recommended, an amendment to the agreement between Fresno Unified and Baltara Enterprises, which provides access to Factory 41 (formerly known as Bitwise) for hosting meetings and training for staff in the Instructional Division.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-11. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that during a time of contraction on the need to scrutinize every dollar. Commented on understanding the need for collaborative spaces but the cost of \$120,000 can total one to two employee positions or instructional supplies which is where focus is needed. Commented that this item is a nice to have but not a need especially as the district is facing budget cuts. Member Jonasson Rosas is not in favor of spending funds in this way.

Member Thomas requested clarity as to the need for this space and if no other space was available.

Tonisha Hargrove-Williams was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded by Board Member Islas, agenda item A-11 was approved by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, President Wittrup.

A-12, APPROVE Amendment to the Agreement with Deborah McCoy
APPROVED as recommended, an amendment to the agreement with Deborah McCoy. Deborah McCoy facilitates the hip-hop club at Baird Middle School's after-school program and works with various student groups to create a space for students to support expression, acceptance, and caring.

A-13, APPROVE Amendment to the Agreement with Guevara Arts and Leadership APPROVED as recommended, an amendment to the agreement with Guevara Arts and Leadership. Guevara Arts and Leadership has been providing four mathematics tutors, who work six hours per day, to support students in grades five through eight at Baird Middle School.

A-14, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-54, Bullard High School Fencing Improvements The Board moved to table this item until after the Board Workshop on Facilities – Potential Bond – RSSC.

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

President Wittrup Thanked Mr. Idsvoog and Mr. Torigian for their work getting this project through the design phase and for keeping President Wittrup informed of progress during the process. President Wittrup commented that this is one of the first things asked for when elected to the Board. Expressed appreciation for the work and the community input gained in the Bullard region.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented on pulling this item because it merits inclusion in the larger context and discussion of facilities projects which will take place at the Board Workshop scheduled for the following Monday. Member Jonasson Rosas motioned to table agenda item A-14 until after the larger discussion on facilities.

Member Thomas requested clarity as to what changed from prior bid to current bid to cause the rise in project cost. Requested clarity as to whether anything was added to the project as inflation could not be the only reason for escalation in cost. Member Thomas asked if the fence around the soccer field was necessary for safety.

Member Cazares commented on hoping to wait on any big projects until after a Board Workshop on facilities scheduled for the following Monday. Member Cazares commented on patiently waiting for work to begin on a project for the Hoover region which has been on the books for years.

Clerk Davis would like to wait for discussion on this item until the following Monday at the Board Workshop for facilities.

President Wittrup asked if this was the third time the Bullard fence has been on the agenda. Requested clarity as to the cost of the fence the first-time item was on the agenda and why the fence was not approved at that time.

President Wittrup commented on taking part in discussions for the last year and a half regarding the Bullard fence and asked if this project is bumping other projects so Bullard High School can have a security fence like all the other high schools. President Wittrup commented on the Edison High School painting project being moved up due to community concerns, so projects do get moved up for specific regions; whereas, this project has been planned, and money spent with the state architect, with feedback from the community. President Wittrup asked if staff thought the price would increase if project was not approved, and what is entailed if project is not moved on within the 90-day period. President Wittrup asked if the purpose of the fence was for student and staff safety.

Member Levine requested clarity as to whether the cost could increase during the 90-day window and if delaying action tonight will get in the way of work planned for the summer.

Clerk Davis requested clarity as to when the Bullard academic refresh took place and why the fence was not built at the same time. Clerk Davis commented that going forward when a refresh takes place the district considers what is done at one school is done at all and is not to the preference of a sitting board member.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that Roosevelt has chain link fence around most of the perimeter.

Paul Idsvoog, Armen Torigian, and Alex Belanger were available to provide clarity.

For the record, legal counsel Bryan Martin suggested the Board take a roll call vote on agenda item A-14.

Board Member Jonasson Rosas motioned to table item A-14 until the Facilities Workshop was held on April 2. Member Thomas seconded the motion, the motion carried by a roll call vote of 4-3-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis. NOES: Board Members Islas, Levine, and Board President Wittrup.

A-15, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-55, Manchester Elementary School Portable Confidential Space Installation

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-55, Manchester Elementary School Portable Confidential Space Installation. The project will modify an existing portable classroom to create four confidential counseling offices for student support staff.

A-16, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-56, Fresno High School Auxiliary Gym, and Site Improvements

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-56, Fresno High School Auxiliary Gym, and Site Improvements. The project, is part of an ongoing effort to increase equity of athletic facilities throughout the district, will add a new 15,000 square foot gymnasium building with retractable bleachers which allows a 980-spectator capacity.

A-17, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-60, McCardle Elementary School Portables Improvement

APPROVED as recommended, is information on Bid 24-60, McCardle Elementary School Portables Improvement. This project will provide infrastructure and site improvements to place two new portable buildings.

A-18, APPROVE Rejection of Request for Proposal 24-52, Wi-Fi Equipment for School Bus Connectivity

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposal (RFP) 24-52, Wi-Fi Equipment for School Bus Connectivity to purchase modems, antenna kits, and installation services to provide data connectivity of district school buses to the districts private LTE network.

A-19, APPROVE Vendor Designation Per Request for Qualifications 22-09S and 22-09S2, Extended Learning Enrichment Services

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 22-09S, Extended Learning Enrichment Services. The Board approved the RFQ on November 17, 2021, and supplemental rounds to add vendors on November 09, 2022, and March 22, 2023, to provide enrichment services outside of the regular school day.

A-20, APPROVE Proposed Revisions to Board Policies

APPROVED as recommended, proposed revisions to four Board Policies (BP) and one Exhibit (E) as follows: BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention; E 5141.52 Suicide Prevention; BP 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment; BP 6142.7 Physical Education and Activity; BP 6145 Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities.

A-21, RATIFY Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement between Fresno Adult School and San Joaquin College of Law

RATIFIED as recommended, a memorandum of understanding and an agreement between Fresno Adult School and San Joaquin College of Law to implement the Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services grant.

A-22, RATIFY Change Orders

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

Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multipurpose Building and Interim Housing, Change Order 4 (Multipurpose Building) presented for ratification: \$35,332.

Bid 23-48 Section A, Turf Rehabilitation at Various Sites, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$14,546.

Bid 23-66 Sections A, Heaton and Section B, Webster Elementary Schools Playground Equipment Replacement, Change Order 2 (Section A, Heaton) presented for ratification: \$5,188; Change Order 2 (Section B, Webster) presented for ratification: \$0.

Bid 23-66 Section C, Scandinavian Middle School Playground Equipment Replacement, Change Order 2 presented for ratification: \$0.

Bid 24-16, Roeding Elementary School Confidential Spaces and Administration Building Modernization, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$30,555.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-23, PRESENT and DISCUSS Expanding Student-Centered and Real-World Learning Experiences

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

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item B-23. A summary is as follows:

Member Cazares requested clarity as to the site plan and phased construction plans. Asked if there is an opportunity for the other high schools as well as students from the Adult Transition and Adult School programs to participate with Sunnyside in the Future Farmers of America program. Requested clarity as to whether plans are to purchase or lease the property for the idea center. Requested clarity as to the hours of operation for the idea center.

Member Levine thanked staff for the presentation, commented that with Fresno Unified outpacing peer districts in clearing up chronic absenteeism, and all the good and exciting work happening within the district it is inspiring. Commented on loving the idea for the idea center and requested clarity as to who owns the building where the proposed idea center will be located and commented it would be amazing if Fresno Unified could acquire the property. Member Levine asked staff to walk the Board through the experience of a student going through the idea center and asked if the scheduling will be similar to the aviation program. Requested clarity as to if the program will be inclusive of all comprehensive high schools.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented on the opportunity to brainstorm with staff on partnerships, grants, resource grants and potential sources of funding and raising capital. Commented on the opportunity for programs regarding animal science, farm equipment repair, water technology. Asked if staff have considered community use and programs as well. Asked if there is overlap with the Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) and would like to be sure Fresno Unified is not duplicating CTEC.

Member Islas commented on excitement for this project and on being inspired by the conversation. Shared suggestions on partnerships such as with ethnic farmer associations within the area to promote specific produce for the neighborhood needs and diets. Commented on the store and the importance of accepting more than cash transactions such as Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) and gave example of double up bucks.

Member Islas commented that F3 only includes higher education and K-12 is absent and this becomes another model of agriculture innovation that could be connected to EDA funding. Member Islas commented on climate forward economy conversations and the more grown locally and sustainably has smart climate implications as well.

Member Islas commented on the loving the concept of the idea center and recognizing the need for safeguards to ensure students are connected with tutoring and support to stay on track to graduate, so students are successful in school and experience an internship; as well as receiving a wage that is comparable to what is paid in the real-world. Member Islas requested staff consider transportation so all students can participate in the program.

Clerk Davis commented on the success of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology and looks forward to seeing this program as well.

For the record, Superintendent Nelson and Jeremy Ward were available to provide clarity.

B-24, OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION of the 2023-2026 Negotiated Successor Tentative Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Fresno Teachers Association Trades

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

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved 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 2024/25 Strategic Budget Development Phase IV

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 and/or questions pertaining to agenda item B-25. A summary is as follows:

Board President Wittrup thanked staff for the opportunity to meet in small groups for a time to ask questions and get answers.

Member Cazares commented that slide four briefly touched on reductions in school psychologists and that this board over time has tried to build robust levels of service in the areas of school psychologists, counselors, and guidance counselors. Member Cazares would like to be sure that funding will continue to provide the best services to our students and that by not adding staff does not mean we are not furthering our goals and making sure every student has the services they need.

Member Cazares referenced that the Council of the Great City Schools is preparing to release a report to update the district on whether or not the district has met CGCS requirements or recommendations pertaining to district special education programming and requested for the record how that soon to be released report is integrated into the budget.

Member Cazares referenced reductions listed on slides six and seven related to school leadership and teacher development and commented on the Board's support of the teacher pipeline, continuous professional learning, and promoting staff from within. Member Cazares, specifically to the comment above, asked staff to ensure that planned reductions do not detrimentally affect efforts the Board has put in place to ensure staff are able to take advantage of additional learning, higher education, and scholarships.

Member Cazares referenced slide 17 and asked staff to address a story in the News that the district is cutting back on ethnic studies which is going to affect our students' ability to fulfill graduation requirements. Member Cazares commented that the district has been on the forefront of ethnic studies from the get-go, has had fabulous teachers that volunteered their time to set up this program, have worked together across the district, have put in countless hours to set up the ethnic studies program.

Member Cazares requested clarity pertaining to the Athletic Bridge program. Member Cazares requested staff to ensure that the message is communicated well, and students are aware of the program. Member Cazares asked if the Athletic Bridge program could be partnered with tutoring.

Member Levine Recognized Trustee Cazares for suggesting the district create an office for accessibility and ADA and appreciated the investment as it is important and will probably pay for itself helping the district is de everything needed legally and morally.

Member Levine commented on concerns heard from ethnic studies teachers, staff, and students of being proud of the district's commitment to make this a graduation requirement before the state requirement began but the district was not investing enough and following through on the commitment. Member Levine commented that during a previous presentation staff shared the vacant position for teacher on special assignment would not be cut. Member Levine commented this is clearly a priority to the Board and asked staff in addition to the teacher on special assignment position, to figure out any and all ways to fully invest and lean into our teachers who have sacrificed so much to get us to this point.

Requested clarity pertaining to the reduction in bus passes and addressed concern the lack of usage may not be based on interest or need but marketing. Asked what the plan for the next school year is to ensure students know of this opportunity.

Member Jonasson Rosas echoed some comments of fellow colleagues, and asked to focus on where Fresno Unified is potentially. Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity as to where the district stands regarding unrestricted general fund reserves. Asked if the district is utilizing reserves in this budget cycle. Member Jonasson Rosas commented on the creation of an office of accessibility, and recommendations that may come from the council of the great city schools and other things that may come up and in terms of additional needed funds wonders if the Board has given itself enough wiggle room. Commented that at this point by all counts the May revise is going to include less money.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that there are more arcane things that could be done in terms of belt tightening and recommends the more that can be done on the frontend (such as not lease meeting spaces) can protect the district from having to make painful reductions.

Member Jonasson Rosas was glad to hear the district has tools and some cushion with the reserve as Member Jonasson Rosas feel the next budget cycle will impact the district and the Board will have to revisit this and it may not be for the positive.

Member Thomas addressed concerns pertaining to reductions presented for the African American Academic Acceleration (A-4) program and asked to speak with staff offline, specifically regarding one Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). Member Thomas shared concern that an FTE from the A-4 program was being used elsewhere and did not think the FTE should be moved but if needed to add another FTE.

Member Thomas requested clarity as to who oversees the budget for the Step-Up program. Member Thomas requested the budget to stand solid and stay with the Step-Up program as it is an important part of student achievement, of student academics of students wanting to move to the next space in their lives, and Member Thomas by no means wants the budget for the Step-Up program to be tampered with and requested to know how many FTEs currently assigned to the program.

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. Brandi Sherman: Shared information about Fresno Trap - Neuter – Return and asked to partner with Fresno Unified to help with stray cat populations as sites.
2. Rain Ramirez: Shared information on stray cat behavior.
3. Sebastian Antonio: Advocated for humane treatment of cats as a member of the Edison Tiger Rescue Team.
4. Jacquelyn Fargano: Provided information on a cat sanctuary the Edison Tiger Rescue Team would like to start and requested support from the district.
5. Marycella Pacheco: Commented on the need for further training of a campus safety assistant, and bus sanitation

D. ADJOURNMENT

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