

September 19, 2022



Photo of the Week



Gaston Middle School Principal Courtney Curtis gets his head shaved after students met their SBAC testing goals.

Dates to Know

September 28 (see website for time)
[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[Eaton Elementary School Highlight Video](#)

Greetings!

Welcome to Community Zone, an e-newsletter from the Fresno Unified School District featuring news of the district and schools. [Sign up](#) to receive this newsletter every two weeks. Questions? Contact Communications@fresnounified.org.

Community News

H. Roger Tatarian Elementary School Hosts Celebration



H. Roger Tatarian Elementary School celebrated its new name on September 7, welcoming community members, former students and colleagues of Mr. Tatarian, and district staff. The program honored Mr. Tatarian's accomplishments and Armenian heritage, featuring the Armenian Dance Group of Fresno, Armenian music and food. Tatarian students led the flag salute and speakers were Superintendent Bob Nelson, board members,

students, Fresno State President Saul Jimenez-Sandoval, Principal Michele Markarian and author Mark Arax.

Mr. Tatarian, who passed away in 1995, was born in Fresno, attending Jackson Elementary School, Longfellow Junior High and Roosevelt High School, where was a top graduate and commencement speaker. He graduated from Fresno State and launched an illustrious career as a newspaper journalist and editor, overseeing United Press International (UPI) news bureaus around the world. Upon retiring from UPI, Mr. Tatarian returned to Fresno to teach a new generation of journalists for 15 years. He is the only person to be named both outstanding alumnus and outstanding professor for Fresno State.

Superintendent Board Remarks from September 14, 2022



- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks recognizing the hoax active shooter report earlier this afternoon at Bullard High School. An external phone call was made to Fresno Police Department (PD) shortly afternoon 12 p.m. today reporting an active shooter at Bullard High School. Superintendent detailed the events, which included immediate and courageous response from our Fresno PD and our Safety and Emergency Response teams, a clearance of active danger within 8 minutes, and a lifting of the lockdown within the hour. Superintendent shared his gratitude to the Fresno PD and our Safety and Emergency Response teams for their swift response.

- Superintendent shared that he stood alongside Chief Balderrama, District Attorney Smittcamp, and FBI partners at a press conference this afternoon. Superintendent shared that the FBI does trace these threats and false reports and they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent allowable by the law. Threats and false reports will not be tolerated in our district.

- Superintendent Nelson also recognized last week's press conference with Fresno PD sharing an altercation between a former principal and an elementary school student. Superintendent shared some details, [which can be found here](#), and reiterated that Fresno Unified does not tolerate this kind of conduct at any time and has no interest in retaining any employee who has engaged in such harmful behavior.

- Superintendent also acknowledged the dynamics of race within this altercation. While there has been no information to lead us to believe this was a racially motivated altercation, we are not blind to the fact that racial dynamics are always present. We also are not blind to the fact that seeing this footage of a white principal aggressively pushing down an African American young boy is going to be triggering and potentially traumatizing, especially for our African American community.

- Superintendent reminded our students, families, and staff who are struggling as they process the footage of this disturbing event, please reach out to our team for help. Students, [please reach out to a trusted adult on campus](#), families please access our [CareSolace supports](#) through our website, and staff please use our [EAP supports](#) or reach out to your supervisor or HR for resources.

- Superintendent then shared some positive information and reminders including;

- Tickets are now on sale for the State of Education Gala on October 6th through our website [at this link](#),

- We are currently surveying families on crucial household and income data that determine district and school funding through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Families identified to complete this information will be notified in several ways, and

- the H. Roger Tatarian Renaming Celebration last week. [You can see more at this video](#).

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Vang Pao Awarded Grant



Vang Pao Elementary School has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Aera Energy that will fund a college and career-related field trip for the school's 400 third through sixth grade students. Students will also meet Aera geologist, biologists, engineers and other professionals at a career day at the end of the school year. Vang Pao Principal Yua Lee said: "The majority of our students don't often see or experience anything beyond their community. They often don't know about

the many career options that are available to them."

CTE Spotlight

Edison Pathway Program is in State Magazine



Energy Academy, featured in a statewide publication for encouraging students to pursue careers in energy and the environment. The program is one of the state's model California Partnership Academies – a "school within a school" that offers three years of rigorous academics and career technical education. PG&E and Grid Alternatives donate money and materials to the academy and offer student internships. Students can

also build electric cars and learn how to install solar panels that can lead to employment right out of high school. The Green Energy Academy was featured [in an article on 21st century CTE](#) in the California Teachers Association's "California Educator" magazine.

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