



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**  
**January 10, 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 January 10, 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 4:35 p.m.

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

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

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:37 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 7:20 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 7:25 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:34 p.m.

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

- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Vincent Rios to Executive Director in Fiscal Services, 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 Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Felicia Olais to Director in the Charter Office, 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 Clerk Davis, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Rosa Contreras to Executive Director in Fiscal Services, 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 Jonasson Rosas seconded by Board Member Islas, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Erica Piedra to Executive Officer in English Learner Services, 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 Cazares, the Board acted in Closed Session to appoint Malati Gopal to Executive Officer in Human Resources, 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**

Truste Veva Islas led the Flag Salute.

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

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

## **HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- Good evening and Happy New Year to all who are joining us. I hope everyone had a peaceful winter break and is back with renewed energy for the second semester! That being said, we have lots of great opportunities and shoutouts I want to share this evening.
- First, Fresno Unified Scholarship applications are now open! That means listen up Class of 2024! Last year more than 200 students were awarded about \$300,000 in scholarships. This year The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools has \$400,000 to give out, with a minimum of \$1,000 awarded to each recipient. It's also easier than ever to apply, with no minimum GPA required! This is a great opportunity for any student to make their college dreams a reality. The deadline to apply is March 16, but get an early jump now before the semester gets busier! Check in with your counselor for help or head straight to our website at [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org) to apply now.
- Speaking of money for college, we want all our Fresno Unified Families to know about, and take advantage of, the CalKIDS program. CalKIDS gives our students a jumpstart on saving for college. This is FREE MONEY! California has provided about 4 million children with up to \$1,500 in college savings. The funds are

intended to help pay for college and career training and to inspire families to consider the benefits of post-secondary education. Head to CalKIDS dot org to learn more and get started!

- Are you or someone you know interested in teaching? We are hosting an Aspiring Teacher Expo on Thursday, February 1st from 4pm to 6pm in McLane High School's cafeteria. The expo will include information on our teacher pipeline programs and an opportunity to meet virtually with university representatives to learn about programs for future teachers. New this year, our teacher residency program is offering a \$34,000 financial stipend to support your journey to becoming an amazing teacher! You need to apply and register to attend so head to our website at [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org) to learn more.
- Get ready all, The Great Kindness Challenge is coming up the week of January 22nd! The Great Kindness Challenge is a global campaign that promotes kindness, social-emotional health, and bullying prevention in Pre-K through 12th grade. The Great Kindness Challenge started 13 years ago with just 3 schools in California and now there are over 20 million students in 40,000 schools and 115 countries participating in The Great Kindness Challenge! Fresno Unified is officially a Kindness Certified School District and we are part of a kindness revolution! School leaders, teachers, students, and families I'd like to invite you to join us and host The Great Kindness Challenge at your school and in your classrooms. Head to [greatkindnesschallenge.org](http://greatkindnesschallenge.org) to sign up and get all your tools and resources to make January 22nd through 26th a week of kindness!
- Educators, if you haven't already signed up for the 2024 Equity in Action Conference right here in Fresno. The 2024 Equity Conference will highlight the work happening in schools to champion equity for students. The conference is being held on January 25th at the DoubleTree Hotel from 8am-3:30pm. Register now at [equitycon.fcoe.org](http://equitycon.fcoe.org).
- Our annual Excellence in Education celebration is coming up on January 31st! Tomorrow all staff will receive an invitation to get your tickets through ParentSquare. The ParentSquare alert will include a list of all nominees and you'll want to move fast as tickets are limited! Join us for one of the best nights of the year!
- Before I wrap up, I have a few shoutouts I'd like to make!
  - This weekend kicks off the 40th Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration here in Fresno! With events from Friday through Monday, we have two of special interest to our Fresno Unified Family:
- First, is the Garlanding Ceremony where our BSU Students and King Elementary Dancers will be featured. Join us on Friday at 11:45 a.m. at Courthouse Park to celebrate and cheer on our students.
- Later that evening, a Community Awards Program will be held where our very own Trustee Keshia Thomas will be presented with the Educational Leadership Award! Congratulations Trustee Thomas on this well-deserved honor. Please join us on Friday evening at 5pm at Fresno City Hall to celebrate!
  - I also want to recognize and thank all our board trustees and the Fresno Unified family for joining us in our Giving Tuesday challenge back in November. The challenge brought in 125 donations for a total of \$13,106 to

fund regional scholarships for our students through the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools. In addition, two competitions went on during the day with the winning region receiving an extra \$500 in scholarship funds for each win. For the second year in a row, congratulations are in order for Trustee Thomas, representing the Edison region, for the largest number of donors at 37, and the largest donation of the day! Congratulations Trustee Thomas, you've won an additional \$1,000 in scholarship funds for the students of your region!

- Last but certainly not least, I want to celebrate School Board Recognition Month! January is #SchoolBoardRecognitionMonth, and we're celebrating these dedicated champions to my left! Their tireless efforts, year-round collaboration with staff and administration, and commitment to providing the best educational opportunities are truly commendable. Thank you, Trustees! Let's take a quick look at our School Board in Action with this short video!
- Thank you again Trustees. We couldn't do what we do without your leadership and advocacy.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**Member Islas** provided a shout out to the Hmong dancers from McLane High School who performed at the California School Boards Association annual conference.

**President Wittrup** shared her pleasure to serve as Board President and expressed appreciation for the support of her fellow board members. Commented on the helpfulness of members of the Superintendent's executive cabinet.

Commented on the number of items on the consent agenda requesting ratification. Commented ratification should be an exception not the norm. Expressed appreciation for the rationale provided by Dr. Baker for the request for ratifications, especially those pertaining to special education. Board President Wittrup stated she would like to see agreements before services are provided. Requested Superintendent Nelson to pay special attention to giving the Board the opportunity to approve rather than ratify.

## **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.

For the record, staff pulled from the consent agenda item A-17; therefore, no discussion or action took place for item A-17.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-8, A-18 and A-22 which were pulled for further discussion, and A-17 which was pulled by staff from the consent agenda; 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 December 13, 2023.

**A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes for the December 13, 2023, Board of Education regular meeting.

**A-4, APPROVE Agreement with Southern Education Foundation, Inc.**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with Southern Education Foundation, Inc. As part of the outcomes-based contracting (OBC) initiative, the agreement with Southern Education Inc. will provide technical assistance to Fresno Unified School District for contract renegotiation for high-impact tutoring.

**A-5, APPROVE Agreement with The Stepping Stones Group**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an agreement with The Stepping Stones Group, to provide two behavior interventionists at Addams Elementary.

The Superintendent recommends approval. Fiscal impact: Sufficient funds in the amount of \$75,000 are available in the Comprehensive Support and Improvement Budget. Contact person: Natasha Baker, Ed.D., telephone 457-3731.

**A-6, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Family Foundations Counseling Services**

**APPROVED as recommended**, an addendum to the agreement with Family Foundations Counseling Services to provide educationally related mental health services to students with an Individualized Educational Program that can be used both to support the student individually as well as their family.

**A-7, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-24, Wawona Middle School Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Energy Management System Replacement**

**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 24-24, Wawona Middle School Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Energy Management System Replacement.

**A-8, APPROVE Award of Request for Qualifications 24-17, Interpretation and Translation Services**

**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 24-17, to qualify a pool of vendors for services in the categories of Interpretation Services and Translation Services.

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

**Member Islas** asked what safeguards are in place to ensure quality control and the reason for vendors outside of California.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** requested staff to be mindful of the types of Spanish used.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Clerk, the Board approved agenda item A-8 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.

**A-9, APPROVE List of Board Member Committees and Organizations**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a list of committees and organizations to which Board Members are appointed each year.

**A-10, DENY Claim GL23-0630-9348**

**DENIED as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL23-0630-9348.

**A-11, RATIFY Agreement with Alpine Academy**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with Alpine Academy for Residential Treatment and Non-Public Schools services in the amount of \$50,865. Alpine Academy provides residential treatment and non-public services for complex services in line with the high level of need and the unique nature of students' mental health conditions per their Individualized Education Programs. The term of the agreement began March 23, 2023, and ended June 30, 2023.

**A-12, RATIFY Agreement with AMN Allied Services, LLC DBA Healthcare**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with AMN Allied Services, LLC, DBA Healthcare to provide educationally related mental health services (ERMHS) per Individual Education Plans (IEP). ERMHS can be used both to support the student individually as well as their family. It is talk-therapy designed to break down barriers keeping students from accessing their education.

**A-13, RATIFY Agreement with Beach Cities Learning Center**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with Beach Cities Learning Center. This agreement allows Beach Cities Learning Center, LLC to provide the education of up to 23 Fresno Unified students for the 2023/24 school year. These students require intensive mental health and behavioral support that cannot be met on a comprehensive site.

**A-14, RATIFY Agreement with Creative Alternatives, Inc.**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with Creative Alternative, Inc. This agreement allows Creative Alternatives to provide the education of up to 40 Fresno Unified students. These students require intensive mental health and behavioral support, and these needs cannot be met on a comprehensive site.

**A-15, RATIFY Agreement with CORE Districts**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with CORE Districts. CORE Districts works collaboratively with Bullard, Duncan, McLane, Roosevelt, and Sunnyside high schools with data monitoring tools, change ideas, and meeting routines proven to show improvement in ninth grade on-track.

**A-16, RATIFY Agreement with Harrison Peters**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with Harrison Peters to provide support services for Asian and Pacific Islander leaders through Men of Color in Education Leadership.

**A-17, RATIFY Agreement with Institute for Excellence in Education**

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

**A-18, RATIFY Agreement with Shifting Perspectives, LLC**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with Shifting Perspectives, LLC to provide support for aspiring leaders and co-administrators through a professional development series to enhance their leadership skills through an equity lens.

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

**Member Cazares** requested staff to share perspective on how this agreement ties into the classroom. Asked staff to explain the term of the agreement and why it is a request for ratification rather than approval.

Kimberly Villescaz was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-18 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.

**A-19, RATIFY Change Orders**

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

Bid 22-01, Addams Elementary School Building Additions and Modernization  
Change Order 11 presented for ratification: \$79,262

Bid 22-18, Ewing and Turner Elementary Schools Unit Ventilation, Energy Management Systems, and Central Plant Equipment Replacement  
Change Order 2 presented for ratification: \$17,526

Bid 22-45, Kings Canyon Middle School Classrooms and Sunnyside High School Training Room Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Upgrades  
Change Order 1 (Sunnyside) presented for ratification: \$10,460

Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building and Interim Housing  
Change Order 1 (Multi-Purpose Building) presented for ratification: \$-15,434  
Change Order 2 (Multi-Purpose Building) presented for ratification: \$37,944

**A-20, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, Notices of Completion for the projects which have been completed according to plans and specifications as follows:

Bid 22-18, Ewing and Turner Elementary Schools Unit Ventilation, Energy Management Systems, and Central Plant Equipment Replacement

Bid 22-42, Intrusion Security Upgrades Phase 1

Bid 22-43, Intrusion Security Upgrades Phase 2

Bid 22-45, Kings Canyon Middle School Classrooms and Sunnyside High School Training Room Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Upgrades

**A-21, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2023, through October 31, 2023, and Zero Dollar Contracts – Primary Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2023, through October 31, 2023. 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-22, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2023, through October 31, 2023, and Zero Dollar Contracts – Supplemental Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2023, through October 31, 2023, and Zero Dollar Contracts – Supplemental Report.



For the record, Trustee Levine read a statement as follows:

“Agenda item A-22 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, contains purchase orders for the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, the California State University, Fresno, Fresno State University, and CSUF Kremen Education. I am currently employed by California State University, Fresno.

Additionally, item A-22 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 Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk, the Board approved agenda item A-22; by a vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Levine

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

### **B-23, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2022/23 Bond Annual Report**

For the record, the Board received one (1) request to address the Board on agenda item B-23. The Individual’s name and summary of topic are as follows:

1. Jim Nau, member of the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee, commented on being impressed by the Board and the good things Fresno Unified is doing, commented on the failure of the marketing department to promote the success of Fresno Unified School District.

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

**Member Thomas** commented she has not seen this much simultaneous work done on campuses during her tenure. Thanked staff for their work and expressed appreciations.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** thanked staff for the multiple projects being overseen. Thanked those who serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Commented Fresno Unified is able to pass bonds in large part to the projects the community of Fresno can see being done and have confidence there is a group of citizens that oversee and make sure the dollars are spent in the way the taxpayers intended. Asked if staff have thought of different ways of marketing such as TiK Tok.

**Member Islas** thanked those who serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Requested an update on the facility project matrix. Interested in the eLearn campus. Commented several district investments have benefits beyond students during the regular school day and if this provides an opportunity to explore community needs and to help build stability for families.

**Clerk Davis** thanked those who serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, and commented on how important it is for the community to see fellow citizens acting in oversight.

**Student Member Pitcher** shared a personal experience taking the bus from Starr to Del Mar and waiting in a very dilapidated cafeteria, expressed excitement on seeing the work done at Del Mar.

**President Wittrup** expressed appreciation for the work of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.

### **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 zero (0) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications.

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:33 p.m.