



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
January 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 January 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 away, attending the Associations of California School Administrators conference. Deputy Superintendent Misty Her was present.

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

For the record, Trustee Thomas arrived at 4:35 p.m.

For the record, Trustee Cazares arrived at 4:42 p.m.

For the record, it came to the attention of the Board of Education that an item needed to be added to the closed session agenda of the January 24, 2024, Board meeting. Specifically, the item is as follows: “Public Employment/Appointment (Government Code section 54957), Title: Interim Superintendent”.

The Brown Act, at Government Code section 54954.2, allows the addition of an item to the agenda by a 2/3's vote, if the Board finds that there is a need to act as soon as possible and that the need for action came to the attention of the district subsequent to the agenda being posted. In the case of this proposed agenda item, the circumstances creating the need for the Board action came to attention of the district after the regular meeting agenda was posted and immediate action by the Board is necessary for the planning and transition toward a successor superintendent.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas made the motion which was seconded by Board Clerk Davis.

The motion was stated in the form of the questions as follows: Shall the Board add one item to its closed session agenda titled: “Public Employment/Appointment (Government Code section 54957), Title Interim Superintendent,” and, as part of and in support of this

motion, does the Board find that the need for action is immediate and that the need for action came to the attention of the District after the posting of the agenda?

On a motion by Board Member, Jonasson Rosas seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board approved to add "Public Employment/Appointment (Government Code section 54957), Title: Interim Superintendent" to the January 24, 2024, closed session agenda, by a vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Cazares.

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 4:36 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 6:15 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:19 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board acted in Closed Session to approve dismissal of 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Student Member Maritza Lua led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

The Board heard comments and reports from Student Board Representatives from Design Science Middle College High School.

HEAR Report from Deputy Superintendent

- Good evening to all joining us here in the Board Room and those watching online. I am pleased to be on the dais tonight representing Superintendent Nelson as he attends the Association of California School Administrators Superintendent Symposium as is required by his employment agreement with our Board of Education. As I am sure you are all aware, this week started with some big and bittersweet news. Superintendent Nelson has accepted a tenure-track position

within the Educational Leadership Division at the Kremen School of Education at Fresno State. Superintendent Nelson will continue as our Superintendent through July 31st and join Fresno State as they start their next school year.

- First, let me say that we are incredibly grateful for the leadership of Superintendent Nelson over the past seven years, as well as the upcoming transitional six months, a gift of stability he has afforded our district that is incredibly rare in this tumultuous time for large urban district superintendents. I have had the privilege of coming up through the system on a similar trajectory as Bob, teaching at the same school and becoming a principal at the same board meeting actually! Spending the last three years as his Deputy Superintendent, I have learned so much, especially operationally with our finance, facilities, maintenance, transportation, nutrition services, and so much more.
- I have full faith in our Board, a Board who values stability and strength in our leadership, to conduct an effective transition as they decide on who will be the next Superintendent of Fresno Unified. Having had the luxury of just two superintendents serving our district over the last almost 20 years, we experience stability in a way that most other urban school districts do not. That is a direct testament to the crucial leadership of our Board of Education, and we thank you all for your steadfast leadership as you take on the challenge of filling Bob's shoes with someone who will use his foundations as a launch pad for skyrocketing student academic success.
- All that being said, I want to make a few shoutouts and invitations before I wrap up.
 - First, please join us tomorrow for our Sunnyside Regional Family Engagement Night! From 5pm to 7pm the Sunnyside community is invited to join us at Sunnyside High School in the main gym for food, fun, and free resources at our Literacy and Resource fair. We'll be celebrating academic gains and students will walk away with free books to take home. Don't miss it!
 - Congrats to King's Magical Teacher, Carlanda Williams, Carlanda Williams, who has been selected for the 2024 LEGO® Education Ambassador program. Educators apply and are selected for the program because they exemplify the values and mission of LEGO Education, are leaders and advocates of hands-on STEAM learning, and have demonstrated the impact of the LEGO® Learning System in their classrooms. Carlanda was among 78 educators selected from across the nation!
 - Please join us this Saturday, January 27th at the Fresno Convention Center for our Black Voices in Literacy event! Come learn about strategies that support student academic success. Motivational speakers, community resources, food, childcare, and transportation will be available, and our kids will walk away with free books to take home as they build their home libraries. There are some awesome tech prizes available as well as raffles for attendees to get Disney on Ice tickets, annual passes to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, free lunch, and much more!
 - As we kick off Black History Month next week, we invite you to join our 10th Annual Black History Month program put on by our Fresno Unified Black

Student Unions! The annual event will be held at Roosevelt's Audra McDonald Theater at 6pm. Tickets are just \$2, and all proceeds go to supporting our BSUs.

- 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 to learn more.
- Last but certainly not least, I want to thank and congratulate all our Golden Heart Customer Service Award Winners! Let's check out this quick video celebrating many of the school site front offices for their amazing customer service. Thank you to all our front office teams! We're so grateful for all of you working to provide excellent customer service to our families, our students, and our staff.

BOARD/DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Clerk Davis shared a few words regarding Student Board Member Maritza Lua. Shared an invitation to the Sunnyside Regional Family Engagement Night! From 5pm to 7pm on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Member Cazares provided a shout out to the Hoover High School Basketball teams. Shared Coach Archie and the team have had an excellent season, Coach Chavira and team as well. Asked everyone to put spring sports events on their calendars.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested a board communication regarding processing time, start to finish, of intra-district transfer requests. Requested clarity as to why there are several approve addendums to agreements on the Board agenda, asked what has happened systemically to cause the issues and is this something the Board will see in the future.

Member Islas requested staff conduct a more comprehensive review of facilities before opening of schools. Commented that Yosemite still does not have air-conditioning in the gym 6-years after her initial review.

Encouraged staff to change how they determine additional staff (vice principals) for school sites. Strategic evaluation is needed to support the needs of the schools. Board Member Islas will provide staff with a more detailed request but thinks these are systemic issues of which the district can be more strategic moving forward.

President Wittrup commented the position of superintendent of Fresno Unified School District is the most important job in the Central Valley; it makes a difference for the community, for moving children and the community out of poverty. Commented the Board is looking toward what comes next to make sure the best person for the job is selected.

Board President Wittrup commented on looking forward to seeing the reading initiative soar!

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 Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-7, A-14, A-18, and A-19 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 January 10, 2024.

A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the January 10, 2024, Board of Education regular meeting.

- A-4, ADOPT Resolutions Delineating Authorized District Agents to Sign on Behalf of Fresno Unified School District**
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolutions 24-27 through 24-34 to update authorized officials to sign various business transactions on behalf of Fresno Unified School District.
- A-5, APPROVE Budget Revision No. 3 for Fiscal Year 2023/24**
APPROVED as recommended, Budget Revision No. 3 for fiscal year 2023/24.
- A-6, APPROVE 2023/24 Salary Schedule Revisions Reflecting 8.5% Increase -- Classified Food Services Hourly (Minimum wage only), Classified Hourly, Fresno Teachers Association – Trades, Confidential Hourly, Supervisory Hourly, Certificated and Classified Management, Nurses and Speech Language Pathologists, Teachers and Librarians, Teachers on Special Assignment, Designated Teachers, Career Technical Ed/Vocational Ed Teachers, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Instructors, Lori Ann Infant Center, Child Development Center and Pace Teachers, Adult Education, Pre-Kindergarten Teachers, and Classified Y-Rated Salary Schedule; Minimum Wage Increase, and Grade Change for Licensed Vocational Nurses**
APPROVED as recommended.
- A-7, APPROVE Agreement with California Teaching Fellows Foundation**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation. California Teaching Fellows will provide tutors for the Step-Up program at Edison, Bullard, and Sunnyside.

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

Clerk Davis shared excitement to have the California Teaching Fellows work with the Step-Up program. Clerk Davis requested clarity as to how many students will be involved.

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

- A-8, APPROVE Agreement with Campus Kaizen LLC**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Campus Kaizen LLC who will provide case management software, services and support for its product, Guardian Case Management.

- A-9, APPROVE Agreement with Lark Technologies, Inc.**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Lark Technologies, Inc., a diabetes remote patient monitoring program.
- A-10, APPROVE Agreement with School Yard Rap**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with School Yard Rap. School Yard Rap will provide a 45-minute assembly on Black History, social-emotional health, and mental health at 68 After School Program sites beginning January 2024 through March 2024 and provide students and families with a culminating show on cultural positivity, cultural awareness, social-emotional health, and mental health.
- A-11, APPROVE Agreement with Stephen Linkous**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Stephen Linkous to conduct mentoring/coaching session with Latino principals.
- A-12, APPROVE Agreement with The Stepping Stones Group LLC**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with The Stepping Stones Group, LLC to provide services under the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Services will be provided to a visually impaired teacher needing accommodation.
- A-13, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Alboum Translation Services**
APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with Alboum Translation Services. The Translation and Interpretation Services Department agreed to modify the total amount of the agreement to include an additional \$100,000 to support interpreting services districtwide. This increase includes multilingual support for interpreting and translation services for the remainder of the 2023/24 school year.
- A-14, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Bertz-Rosa**
APPROVED as recommended, three agreements with Bertz-Rosa and the letter of award to Fresno Unified School District from the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative for the “Communication is Key” project. The Board approved the original agreement on September 13, 2023, which will now be divided into three separate agreements. The total dollar amount will stay the same. The three agreements for pre-production, production, and post-production total \$275,000.

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

Member Cazares requested staff to share a brief explanation of the services provided by this agreement, and the reason for continuation of and the increase to the agreement.

Member Cazares suggested asking students to help in this work.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested to know the difference between the work of Bertz-Rosa and the work of Imago.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved agenda item A-14 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.

For the record, Jeremy Ward was available to provide clarity.

A-15, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Propio LS, LLC

APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with Propio LS, LLC. The Translation and Interpretation Services Department agreed to modify the total amount of the agreement to include an additional \$25,000 to support Family Connect on demand interpreting services districtwide. This increase includes multilingual support for interpreting services for the remainder of the 2023/24 school year.

A-16, APPROVE Addendum to Agreement with Smartling, Inc.

APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with Smartling, Inc. The Translation and Interpretation Services Department agreed to modify the total amount of the agreement to include an additional \$487,000 to support a one-time bulk translation of outstanding 2022/23 Individual Education Programs.

A-17, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Exhibit

APPROVED as recommended, proposed revisions for Exhibit 9270 Conflict of Interest.

A-18, RATIFY Agreement with Alpine Academy

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with Alpine Academy. Alpine Academy provides a residential placement for one student with unique and complex needs as per their Individualized Education Program. It offers academics, psych services, and room and board for this service 365 days a year. The nature of the student's mental health needs required Fresno Unified School District to look for a placement out of state. Due to challenges related to oversight of the agreement, services have already been initiated, necessitating ratification.

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

Member Thomas asked staff to provide information as to why the item is coming to the Board with a request for ratification. Commented that an item to the same vendor was brought forward at the last board meeting.

President Wittrup asked staff to provide information as to why the district began paying on this item in July but it did not come to the Board until January.

For the record, Tangee Pinheiro, Ed.D., was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, 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, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

A-19, RATIFY Addendum to the Agreement with Impact Athletics

RATIFIED as recommended, an addendum to the agreement with Impact Athletics. The Board approved the original agreement on November 01, 2023, for \$18,995. The need to amend the agreement with Impact Athletics is to specify the two different camps made available to students during the Winter Program, Visual Arts Camp and Photography Camp, and to amend the cost per student rate to reflect the correct cost per student as outlined in the final proposal. Impact Athletics agreed to service 80 students in total at the rate of \$355 per student. The agreement will need to be increased by \$9,400 which brings the new contract total to \$28,400.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-19. A summary is as follows:

President Wittrup asked staff to provide information as to why the item is coming to the Board with a request for ratification.

For the record, Jeremy Ward was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board President Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item A-19 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.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-20, PRESENT and DISCUSS Overview of Governor's 2024/25 Proposed State Budget

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-20.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item B-20. A summary is as follows:

Member Islas requested a deeper dive into attendance. Consider district-wide strategies to help promote attendance. What interventions are deployed. Would like to see a qualitative evaluation of what is keeping students from school. Member Islas shared it would be valuable to see where there are monies to re-allocate and homing in on where dollars are to move.

Member Islas commented that several school sites use site funds to cover items she feels should be provided by the district.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked if there were discussions on extending budgetary deadlines? Asked if the Career Technical Education plan mentioned was a state or district plan. Commented on declining enrollment and how people see enrollment differently than prior years, there may be logistical issues but there is also a change in attitude towards school attendance where families are taking vacations during the school year. Suggested a public-education campaign on the importance of attendance. Asked to see declining enrollment by area, may need to consider boundary changes. Suggested staff to ask employees for cost-saving suggestions regarding job efficiency. Requested staff to explore idea of using the district vans for transporting students to school.

Member Levine commented on the possible opportunity to consider a dip into the reserves if projections are just for a 1-year downturn. Expressed the importance of the topic of attendance and deferred to Board leadership a request for a Board Workshop on Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Asked on what the ADA projections are based.

Member Cazares disliked seeing a potential reduction in state matched funding for Career Technical Education (CTE) facilities as those funds were considered for use in improvement and rehabilitation. Commented that if there is a reduction, it may be an opportunity for non-CTE related facilities to be moved up on the facility priority list. Member Cazares commented that several facility projects in the Hoover region have taken second place to CTE facility projects.

President Wittrup expressed appreciation for the presentation and echoed comments made by fellow Board colleagues. Board President Wittrup asked if school psychologists were removed from baseline staffing, and requested staff to add psychologist to slides. Echoed Levine's request for an ADA workshop.

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 three (3) requests to address the Board during

Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Venancio Gaona: Congratulated Superintendent Nelson on his career transition. Shared suggestions of the Latino Educational Issues Roundtable Organization with the Board on what to consider during the superintendent search and qualities to look for in a superintendent.
2. RoseMarie Dixon: Provided the Board with a brief introduction to sound therapy. Would like the Board to consider implementing it in schools.
3. Monica Harrison Snowden: Commented on being tired of her families' intellectual properties being given to the community without any type of compensation and commented she is disappointed her children have to pay for school while other students go free of charge.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:59 p.m.