



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
February 07, 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 February 07, 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 arriving at 4:40 p.m., Board Member Jonasson Rosas, arriving at 4:53 p.m., and Board Member Thomas arriving at 5:01 p.m.

Board President Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:30 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 4:31 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 5:50 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 5:52 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

For the record, there were no items to report.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jill Venkatesan and Leilah Moore of Bullard High School led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

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

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- February brings several important recognitions! We kicked the month off with our 10th anniversary of our Black History Month program put on by our Black Student Unions! It was a beautiful program this year, highlighting our amazing students and staff. Thank you to everyone who made the event a reality this year and for the last 10 years! We carry that same enthusiasm through the rest of Black History Month learning, recognizing, and celebrating black excellence. Next up, we have students and families from all across the district heading to Allensworth this weekend! Ethnic Studies teachers, A4 and Parent University will be taking more than 350 parents, students and staff for a visit filled with hands-on activities, a celebration of black history and ethnic studies, cultural dance, and storytelling, and much more. Thank you, teams!
- This week also marks National School Counseling Week! We are so thankful for our Counselors and the incredible work they do guiding our students and families to success. We are excited to celebrate with our Counselors tomorrow afternoon and hope celebrations are happening at our school sites across the district! Schools, please share pictures of your counselors and any shout outs to our Communications team at communications@fresnounified.org and they will share to social media. Thank you, Counselors!
- Throughout February I also ask you to join in promoting, learning about, and celebrating healthy relationships. February is known as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. And we recognize that the building of healthy relationships begins long before adolescence. To increase knowledge around this topic, we have launched a district-wide healthy relationships campaign. Access resources to help plan your site's awareness efforts through your Employee Zone email.
- Let me wrap up with a few shoutouts and upcoming events:
 - Our 17th annual Tournament of Technology is coming up on April 6th and we need volunteer judges! We need judges for the online portion of the event between March 18th and March 31st, and judges for the live event on April 6th. No technological experience is necessary! This is a great event every year showcasing our amazing middle school students and this year's theme is Y2K! Check your employee zone email for the links to sign up as a judge.
 - Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities Caravan Tour is happening next week, Tuesday, February 13 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Sunnyside High School! Juniors and seniors can attend from throughout the district and will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 25 historically black colleges and universities. The HBCUs are prepared to waive application fees, offer admission, and provide scholarships on the spot! Last year a senior from Roosevelt got a \$52,000 scholarship on the spot! Do not miss this opportunity.
 - Also on February 13, 2024, we are hosting our Teacher Recruitment Fair from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at McLane in the cafeteria. Applications must be completed and submitted by February 12 and qualified applicants will be sent an invitation to attend the event. Head to our website to click to apply from our homepage at www.fresnounified.org.

- Next Friday, February 16, 2024, we are hosting our Edison Region Family Engagement Event! Join Parent University, Trustee Keshia Thomas, and our Instructional Division at Gaston Middle School from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a night of fun, food, and learning! All families in the Edison region are invited and students will walk away with new books to take home!
- I want to give a shoutout to our Health, Safety, and Emergency Response team for their new Health and Safety Minute series! Each month the team puts out high quality videos with relevant health and safety tips for our students, families, and staff. Check them out on our social media, ParentSquare, or our Vimeo page!
- Lastly, I want to recognize all the amazing effort that went into our annual Excellence in Education awards held last week. The event was incredible with 760 guests celebrating 61 nominees and 6 award winners. Congratulations to our winners, Terrie Spalding, Michael Robinson, Bitor Bravo Pena, Debbie Duran, Aida Flores, and Nicole Potter! Our students are better because of amazing folks like you!

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Islas shared a huge shout out to McLane region students who published the book, *In the Spotlight, Stories in Fresno*. Member Islas shared a special thank you to Principal Wulf and the teachers involved with this project. Trustee Islas read two excerpts from the book.

Member Cazares thanked Lisa Mitchell for organizing the Black History Month program. Shared a shout out to the sports teams at Hoover High School and thanked them for great memories.

President Wittrup thanked Wendy McCulley and the Foundation staff for bringing to the district a screening of *The Right to Read*.

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 Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-8, A-9, 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, 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 24, 2024.
- A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**
APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the January 24, 2024, Board of Education regular meeting.
- A-4, APPROVE Agreement with Aukema & Associates**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Aukema & Associates to update the health plan booklet.
- A-5, APPROVE Agreement with Valley Performing Arts Council for Second Grade Ballet Experience**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Valley Performing Arts Council for a second-grade trip to Warnor’s Theatre. All second-grade students will observe an act of “Cinderella” performed by the State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara along with local student dancers.
- A-6, APPROVE Wrap Around Agreement and Addendum to the Wide Area Network and Circuit Agreements with CVIN, LLC dba Vast Networks for Internet and Wide Area Network Services**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement to approve a Wrap Around Agreement and an addendum to the Wide Area Network (WAN) and Circuit Agreements with CVIN, LLC dba Vast Networks for Internet and Wide Area Network Services.
- A-7, APPROVE Addendum to the Agreement with Orchid Interpreting Inc.**
APPROVED as recommended, an amendment to the agreement with Orchid Interpreting Inc.
- A-8, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-31, Bullard High School Gyms Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Improvement Project**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-31, Bullard High School Gyms Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Improvement Project.

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

President Wittrup requested clarity as to completion of the project.

On a motion by Board President Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Thomas, 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.

For the record, Paul Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

A-9, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-35, Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-35, Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization.

Member Cazares commented does not have an issue with the approval of this but what appears as a lack of transparency to the public on Measure M expenditures. Member Cazares shared an expectation to have Board workshops when large expenditures are considered and has an issue with not having an opportunity to provide feedback on this project. Commented on patiently waiting to have Hoover projects addressed and on not having an opportunity to review the project list in some time.

For the record, Paul Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas read a statement as follows:

“Agenda Item A-9 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, concerns the Award of Bid 24-35, Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization.

My residence is located within 500 feet of the southwest edge of the property comprising the Roosevelt High School site. Despite this proximity, awarding Bid 24-35 will have no measurable financial impact on my property because this project rehabilitates the school administration building, library, west hall, and theater which are already in place and part of RHS.

Moreover, the impact of awarding Bid 24-35 is indistinguishable from its effect on the majority of the residential properties within my trustee area that are part of Roosevelt High School’s attendance area.

Notwithstanding the absence of any financial impact on my property, I am abstaining from the vote to award Bid 24-35 pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270 for the express purpose of avoiding the appearance of any conflict.”

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-9, by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSTENTION: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

A-10, APPROVE Proposed Board Meeting Dates for 2024/25 and 2025/26

APPROVED as recommended, proposed Board of Education meeting dates for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 school years. These dates will not preclude either additions or changes at any time throughout the year.

A-11, RATIFY Change Orders

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

Bid 21-41, Duncan Polytechnical High School Career Technical Education (CTE) Medical Science Building
Change Order 8 presented for ratification: \$-55,753

Bid 22-21, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus
Change Order 7 presented for ratification: \$377,384

Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building and Interim Housing
Change Order 3 (Interim Housing) presented for ratification: \$14,015

Bid 23-33, Del Mar Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building (MPB)
Change Order 1 (MPB) presented for ratification: \$215,167
Change Order 1 (New Kindergarten Bldg., Admin & Library Mod) presented for ratification: \$12,257

Bid 23-34, Roosevelt High School Interim Housing
Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$60,752

Bid 23-66, Sections A, Heaton and Section B, Webster Elementary Schools
Playground Equipment Replacement
Change Order 1 (Section A, Heaton) presented for ratification: \$65,604
Change Order 1 (Section B, Webster) presented for ratification: \$37,543

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

President Wittrup requested clarity as to who are the contractors for the change orders. Asked what the total amount of change orders cost. Commented on having scrutinized forty-one items and found of the forty-one items there were twenty-seven change orders for items which should have been known to the district. President Wittrup urged the team to be extra diligent with project documents, design, and ADA.

Member Thomas commented on seeing an improvement pertaining to the number of change orders brought to the Board and thanked the team for their work.

On a motion by Board President Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-11 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-12, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for projects, which have been completed according to plans and specifications as follows: Bid 21-41, Duncan Polytechnical High School CTE Medical Science Building; Bid 23-28, Bullard High School Pool Heater Replacement; Bid 23-31, Kisling Building Modernization; Bid 23-57, Wi-Fi Expansion to Green Spaces; Bid 23-71 Section B, Concrete Slabs for Outdoor Tables at Various Sites; Bid 23-71 Section F, Concrete Slabs for Outdoor Tables at Various Sites.

A-13, RATIFY Purchase Orders from November 01, 2023, through November 30, 2023 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from November 01, 2023, through November 30, 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-14, RATIFY Purchase Orders from November 01, 2023, through November 30, 2023 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from November 01, 2023, through November 30, 2023 – supplemental report.

For the record, Board Member Levine read a statement as follows:

“Agenda item A-14 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, contains purchase orders for the California Teaching Fellows Foundation and California State University, Fresno, I am currently employed by California State University, Fresno.

I did not participate in the making of the purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with Fresno State 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 Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item A-14, by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Clerk Davis, Board President Wittrup. ABSTENTION: Board Member Levine.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-15, DISCUSS and ADOPT Proposed Academic Calendars for School Years 2024/25 and 2025/26

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-15.

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

Member Jonasson Rosas requested the district create a program where parents can take children on district buyback days.

Member Cazares commented on two concerns related to calendar option A, 1) school year running into mid-June; and 2) the school year running up to the week of Christmas. Commented that calendar option B is Member Cazares preferred choice. Requested to hear feedback from student board members.

Student Member Pitcher commented on preferring calendar option A because it allows for more time during the holidays. Expressed thanks for Mr. Coe and his work gathering student voice.

Member Levine as there is two years to work towards the next calendar asked if there are any California district considering a later start date due to the heat the valley experiences in late August.

Clerk Davis echoed the comments of Board Member Jonasson Rosas regarding district buyback days. Asked if Parent University had input with the process.

Member Islas asked if a circle could be added to the calendar to denote Board meeting dates.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board adopted agenda item B-15 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.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of C-16, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Policies.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received nine (9) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. James Barr: Thanked the community and the school district for his 25 years with the school district.
2. Camie Sorensen: Shared concern pertaining to the district's decision to ban students at Manchester from wearing historical clothing as part of the Colonial Days event. Requested the Board to review this event and the decision made, implement a formal policy and procedure when it is proposed for long standing curriculum to be altered or eliminated the community is involved, and asked the developed policy to be retroactively applied to determine the future status of the Colonial Day event at Manchester.
3. Cora Landeros: Shared as a student, a personal view of the importance of the Colonial Days event.
4. Golibe Onycje: Shared as a student, a personal view of the importance of the Colonial Days event.
5. Sarah Sorensen: Shared as a student, a personal view of the importance of the Colonial Days event.
6. Arishdes Borgeas: Shared as a student, a personal view of the importance of the Colonial Days event.
7. Anna Borgeas: Shared concern pertaining to the district's decision to ban students at Manchester from wearing historical clothing as part of the Colonial Days event. Pointed out, last year, the same event was positively highlighted in district media. Asked the district to implement two-way communication and made a formal request for complaint documents to be made public.
8. Anika Chavez: Shared as a student, a personal view of the importance of the Colonial Days event.
9. Alethea Traskin: Shared as a teacher, personal views on the importance of the Colonial Days event. Asked why the mandate happened two days before the event, what policy was used to make the decision, why teachers and the community were not consulted, and how will future objections to events be handled.

For the record, Board President Wittrup asked Teresa Plascencia with Constituent Services to meet with those who had concerns regarding the topic of Manchester GATE Colonial Days.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:59 p.m.