



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
May 08, 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 May 08, 2024, there were present Board Members: Cazares, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. Superintendent Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D. was also present.

For the record, Board Member Islas participated from the teleconference location as follows: 8327 Country Ridge Road, Indiana, Indianapolis, 46234; and

Board Member Jonasson Rosas participated from the teleconference location as follows: The Sheraton Grand Hotel, 1230 “J” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

This meeting was open to the public and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (B)(2), all action taken during this teleconference meeting was by roll call vote.

Board President Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:38 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received one (1) request to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual’s name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Darius Assemi: Congratulated Interim Superintendent Misty Her and commented on being excited to see 100-day plan and hopes it is before the bond measure is placed on the ballot, so taxpayers have the information as well.

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:41 p.m.

For the record, Board President Wittrup extended Closed Session to 7:05 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:09 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares the Board acted in closed session to approve the lateral of Rosalinda Torres to Principal II at Leavenworth Elementary School by a vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSTENTION: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.
- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis the Board acted in closed session to promote Shannon West to Principal III at Tehipite Middle 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.
- In closed session at the April 24, 2024, Board Meeting, the Board acted on resolution #24-54 approving dismissal charges for a permanent classified employee by the following vote of 7 Ayes – 0 Noes.
- In closed session at the April 24, 2024, Board Meeting, the Board acted on resolution #24-55 approving dismissal charges for a permanent classified employee by the following vote of 7 Ayes – 0 Noes.
- In closed session at the April 24, 2024, Board Meeting, the Board acted on resolution #24-56 approving dismissal charges for a permanent classified employee by the following vote of 7 Ayes – 0 Noes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kimberly Rayas, student from eLearn Academy led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

Board Members heard comments and reports from Student Board Representative of eLearn Academy.

For the record, Board President Wittrup entertained a motion to move to the top of the agenda items B-20a Discuss and Approve Employment Agreement for Interim Superintendent Mao Misty Her, and B-20b, Discuss and Approve Amendment No. 5 to Employment Agreement for Superintendent Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares the Board approved to move agenda items B-20a and B-20b to the top of the agenda by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, Board President Wittrup.

B-20a, DISCUSS and APPROVE Employment Agreement for Interim Superintendent Mao Misty Her

For the record, Board President Wittrup read as statement as follows:

Government Code Section 54953(c)(3) of the Brown Act requires this Board make an oral report in open session before taking final action on an employment agreement for a local agency executive such as the interim superintendent the oral report must summarize any recommended compensation including salary and/or fringe benefits.

Consistent with this requirement, the district is providing the following oral summary of the salary and fringe benefits as set forth in the proposed employment agreement between the Fresno Unified School District and Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent.

- Contract term is from May 08, 2024, through the first date of employment of the successor superintendent, unless earlier terminated under the terms of the interim superintendent employment agreement.
- Effective May 08, 2024, the interim superintendent's annualized salary is \$355,310 prorated as to days of service.
- Business and auto expense allowance of \$1000 per month.
- The same paid dental, medical, and vision insurance coverage as other certificated district management employees.

That concludes the Board's report pursuant to government code section 54953.

Board President Wittrup opened the item for discussion. For the record, there was no discussion of item.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board approved agenda item B-20a by a roll call 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-20b, DISCUSS and APPROVE Amendment No. 5 to Employment Agreement for Superintendent Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

For the record, there was no report for this item as there are no changes to the salary or benefits related to this employment agreement.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item B-20b, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

For the record, Board President Wittrup called for a 10-minute recess.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:48 p.m.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Thank you, President Wittrup, and members of the Board! It is with no small degree of mixed feelings that I present what will likely be my last formal superintendent remarks from the dais, during my tenure as Fresno Unified's 23rd superintendent. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the Board of Trustees to even be given this opportunity to be present at the time of transition. There are precious few Superintendencies in major urban school systems across the United States, in which all parties get to be active participants in a peaceful transition of power from one leader to the next. Often times these transitions are fraught with hard feelings as individuals are being forced to depart, or there is some significant drama. It is a mark of the stability of Fresno Unified that all of us are still here at the table in support of one another through this transition process, so thank you very much for that. And thanks, as well, for your sustaining support over the past 7.5 years.
- Stability matters, there is no question, and as a governance team; as a Board and superintendent joint leadership body, we collectively represent the third longest tenured governance team of all of the 70+ major urban school districts nationally that make up the Council of the Great City Schools. In fact, the finite number of leadership teams who remained intact on both sides of the pandemic was fewer than five across our entire nation, and I express my gratitude with you allowing me to serve as your superintendent, even as we became the enforcement arm of COVID health policy. That was a time that was equally hard for superintendents and Board trustees alike, without question. Add in the successful negotiation of multiple union agreements, a few of which became pretty contentious, and it is safe to say we have been through a great deal together. So sincere thanks to all seven of you for your support and trust throughout that process.
- Much has changed since I came to the district back in November 1991. My first teaching position was at Burroughs Elementary, in a school that housed 1300 students on four year-round tracks and bussed another 700 students to an alternative site called Burroughs annex, under the 180 freeway that was being built. At that time, the district had tried unsuccessfully to pass several bonds, and many of our schools were impacted by significant overcrowding. Fast forward to our current situation, where we have successfully passed several bonds in succession, A, K, Q, X, and our most recent measure M, for \$325 million that have

allowed us the opportunity to build schools like Herrera or knock down the juvenile hall facility for the establishment of Farber coming this fall. The level of trust that has been built with our community over time is considerable, and it is critical to offer gratitude to our community for passing those bonds, and for believing in the promise of Fresno Unified.

- Back in 2017, when I came into the superintendency, several trustees were actually running on an election campaign that there were no effective college and career options for our kids. It is safe to say that that work has exploded over the last seven and a half years, starting with the kick-off of the heavy truck facility at Duncan back in 2017 and expanding across our city to affect the life of every child in high school. This Board has supported things such as HVAC at Fresno High, the public service academy at Roosevelt, the multimedia lab at McLane, the teachers Academy at Hoover, and there is still so much more on the horizon with facilities under construction as we speak and things like the agriculture pathway at Sunnyside and the aviation school at Chandler airfield.
- During my tenure here we have also, as a governance team, promoted a college going culture. Would you have imagined the day that every single one of our eligible high school students would be guaranteed enrollment into Fresno State and that we would have a foundation with \$20 million to be able to finance some of those collegiate dreams for our local students to live and serve and lead right here in California Central Valley? That part is amazing and gives me great hope for the future. And it is not an empty promise that work is happening right now with over 2150 students graduating from Fresno Unified now accepted as freshmen at our local research university Fresno State this year.
- I am incredibly proud of the fact that this Board has set one of its five major goals to hire a staff that directly represents the students whom we serve and that we now have over ten years of successive growth in that direction. There is a lot made in the political world these days around the concept of equity, and DEI hiring, and all of that, but I'll say this, you want to make sure that you have a leader who is willing to surround herself or himself with people who do not look like, or talk like, or act like, or think like or have the same lived experiences they have. We all make better choices when we expose ourselves and our thinking to people who are not exactly like ourselves. And Fresno's main jam, the thing that makes it the most beautiful, is its diversity. I know that this pipeline work will long outlive my tenure here. We have a commitment to making sure that our district reflects the best that our community brings to the table, racially, linguistically, economically, you name it. I am thankful to know that Fresno Unified will continue its equity centered pipeline development in every classification. In Fresno we grow our own. We are not waiting for anyone to come along and save us. We know that the way to maintain our staffing parameters and to not be subject to staffing shortages that plague California's schools is to grow our own. I am thankful for that work.

- I know that much is said about our students' overall proficiency levels and that is a constant area of focus and growth for us as a system. It is hard, and a little disingenuous, when students from abject poverty are placed on the same sliding scale with students of privilege. But that does not in any way absolve us of our responsibility to make sure that they reach the same end goals. But I am incredibly proud of the fact that our students are closing the gap to proficiency at a rate that is better and faster and more complete than any of the other thirteen major urban school districts across the state of California. I am very thankful for the fact that we are actually countering chronic absenteeism at a rate that is faster than any other major urban system in our state as well. What is different about Fresno Unified is that we are willing to reach out to the one individual. On a kid-by -kid basis, given the Board's commitment to expanding social emotional supports for students. We are getting ourselves out there into every home figuring out how we can best help and getting those kids back to school. And I am confident that this work is going to long outlive me because of the commitment this Board has made to touch the hearts of every family.
- It is incredibly hard to know where to begin to offer thanks. Over three decades there have been a lot of people that offer gratitude, and many have put themselves out there in ways to ensure that I have found some margin of success. I am incredibly thankful for that. First and foremost, I need to thank the folks that are closest to me in terms of sustaining me in the superintendency which is our own internal office: Maria, Annette, Lucille, Gina, Luz, and of course Ambra and Misty, without whom, quite frankly I could not function in this role.
- I am thankful for our senior leaders and site leaders who are engaged in this critical work. It is a hard time in leadership. The current politicization of K12 education has made it less attractive to others, and honestly that is the single biggest reason I am going to Fresno state to work directly with leadership development across the valley. We need valley trained leaders to support valley youth. Same thing as the pipeline program. It is our job to develop our own. I am thankful for people who are willing to lead anyway despite the obstacles-that takes a great deal of bravery in today's America.
- One thing that has never changed in thirty-three years is the quality of the people who serve Fresno Unified. Teachers, classified professionals, leaders, volunteers, they all represent the absolute gold standard. There is no question that when you are doing this work in Fresno Unified you are making a dent in the universe in ways that are substantive and that really matter. Serving as an internal candidate, the first in thirty years leading this work has been the greatest honor in my career. To everyone within my sphere who helped make that a reality, I offer my sincere and abiding gratitude.
- I am very thankful for the opportunity to turn over the reins of leadership to my dear friend Interim Superintendent Misty Her. We have served together for a long time.

She actually started at John Burroughs the same as me. So that is a comfort, and I have every confidence in her ability to lead in ways that are far beyond my ability to lead.

- Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the single group who have sustained me the longest, the hardest, the most, through the most tense moments are the nine people sitting across the front of the boardroom tonight my wife, Tiffany Sappington Nelson, our kids, Benjamin, Joshua, Phillip, Destiny, Abigail, Ashton, and Sawyer. My daughter in-law Hannah. My mother in-law Charlene, and the woman who put me on the path of serving others as a primary focus of life my mom Eva. My time as a Superintendent has not been easy for them. It is not easy to see your dad portrayed in the media in ways that are less than respectful. It is not easy to have other kids at school, or worse still other adults come at you in weird ways because they are not happy with what your dad has done or decided. It is not easy to have people tear your husband apart on social media without really being able to respond or offer any rebuttal. But this group has endured. Mostly because to a person, they understand the larger contextual situation, that we are here in this life in order to serve. They know that despite the rough spots in the journey, that it is about helping every single one of our 70,000 plus kids in Fresno every day that you can. I am thankful that this change may add some additional time spent together, some additional margin, and some additional degree of support. I am looking very much forward to being a husband, a father, and a son, more regularly, and with more intention. I love all of you and thanks for hanging with me throughout all of it.
- Militant positivity should never be confused with wearing rose colored glasses and pretending things are good when they are not good. Militant positivity is about showing up every day ready to give your best self even in the face of blinding difficulty and aggressive resistance. It is about having the resilience and grit to just refuse to stop what you believe to be right in the support of children. I am super thankful for the opportunity I have had to very publicly model the concept of militant positivity for 7 1/2 years in this role. I am super thankful for the opportunity to leave entirely of my own volition and entirely on my own terms. That is a gift that few superintendents receive. And I am incredibly thankful for the kids and families of this city who provided me with the opportunity to serve them for as long as I have.
- I love Fresno. Nobody is harder on Fresno than Fresnans, and that is something that I intend to keep working on and actively combatting at the leadership level. To each and every one of you I offer my abiding gratitude for this opportunity. Thank you. And in departing I have but one request: keep loving our kids. Keep treating them like you would your own children. Or better still orient to them as though they are your children. They represent the best of what Fresno has to bring to the table every day, it has been an honor to serve them and their families. May God bless all of you. Thanks for everything!

For the record, Board President Wittrup asked to entertain a motion to move to the top of the agenda item B-20, Discuss and Approve Material Revision for Golden Charter Academy.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board approved to move agenda item B-20 to the top of the agenda by a roll call vote of 7-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Board Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

B-20, DISCUSS and APPROVE Material Revision for Golden Charter Academy

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

Member Islas asked why the material revision is coming now rather than 2026 and if the revision does not pass would it result in school closure. Commented that the mission is fantastic and the focus on environmental justice is a worthy cause, but Member Islas has concerns.

Member Islas requested clarity on items as follows: the presentation stated no fiscal impact upon Fresno Unified, but the report by staff noted a fiscal impact over a three-year period at approximately \$1.3 million; why Golden did not use the same data sets as Fresno Unified; a perceived discrepancy in waiting lists numbers; and timeline for building permit approvals.

Member Islas asked why the material revision is coming now, commented that the work is admirable, but permits are not in place. Member Islas referenced the schematic and it appeared there was no playground--asked if the district's facilities team had a chance to review to ensure the proper amount of space per student ratio.

Member Islas restated concerns such as chronic absenteeism, and assessments, specifically when viewing the data dashboard in the areas of English Language Arts and mathematics. Commented there seemed to be a deficiency when comparing the data against, the state, Fresno Unified, and other elementary groups. Member Islas asked if the Board would wait on acting on this item until improvements happen in ELA and mathematics as well as wait to see if building permits related to this item are approved.

Member Islas commented on a willingness to bifurcate the request and move forward with the expansion of enrollment but to wait on the building itself until receiving assurances from the City of Fresno.

Member Islas motioned for the postponement of both requests making up the material revision but specifically the request pertaining to the new building.

For the record, legal counsel Bryan Martin reminded the Board that public comment needed to take place before any action on the item.

Member Levine thanked Golden Charter Academy staff for the presentation and the work they are doing. Member Levine requested clarity from district staff as to what the Board was asked to approve in relation to the property aspect of the item. Member Levine requested clarity as to the enrollment increase versus current enrollment and why Golden Charter is not able to reach its enrollment cap. Requested clarity as to student achievement and growth overtime when you come back in 2027 what should the Board expect to see in assessment scores.

Member Cazares asked if district staff will have a presentation apart from that provided by Golden Charter Academy. Requested staff to speak to the difference in SBAC scores in comparison of Golden Charter Academy to those of the State and Fresno Unified. Asked opinion of staff as to if the Board should consider the age of Golden Charter Academy when looking at assessment scores. Requested confirmation that Golden Charter Academy came to staff with a request to change enrollment and staff at that time recommended that Golden Charter Academy bring the request for site change as well. Asked the name of the architect.

Clerk Davis asked staff of Golden Charter Academy if there is a contingency plan if there is a default. Commented on University High School as a hallmark in the charter world and looking forward to the success of Golden Charter Academy as well.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested legal counsel Susan Hatmaker to provide clarity as to the parameters of the Board's consideration as well as a comment made pertaining to terms of enrollment and if the district is legally obliged to help with enrollment.

Member Jonasson Rosas referenced the Healthy Youth Act and concerns with the lease, specifically if the project is pushed out what happens with the lease with the Catholic Diocese. Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity as to what grade components of the Healthy Youth Act are incorporated.

Member Jonasson Rosas referenced a motion on the table to bifurcate the requests of the material revision and asked if the charter school would need to approve the bifurcation or could it happen unilaterally. Member Jonasson Rosas commented on wanting to be sure that however the Board proceeded that they were not putting the district in jeopardy.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked Mr. Golden if other factors were dependent on enrollment such as financing of the building. Asked what percentage of students come from Fresno Unified School District. Asked about absenteeism root cause and interventions.

Member Jonasson Rosas shared a lens personally used when considering whether to approve a charter school which is charter schools have to provide something different and something better that is not found within Fresno Unified, making sure everything is in the best interest of kids, where students can excel and are safe. From what I hear from parents and the community have not heard anything but great things of Golden.

Board President Wittrup thanked Golden Charter Academy staff for the presentation and shared excitement for what is being done at Golden. Commented that Golden Charter has a vulnerable population and asked how Golden serves and supports children with special needs. Asked what Golden Charter is doing specifically to improve reading proficiency and math achievement. Asked what progress monitoring and interventions Golden Charter uses. Asked how Golden Charter Academy's hiring process protects the safety of students.

Student Member Pitcher commented on being impressed by Golden Charter Academy's program and how hands on learning with help students succeed in middle and high school. Asked Golden Charter Academy to talk about their stewardship projects.

Student Member Lua commented on wishing she had this opportunity. Congratulated Golden Charter for their work. Encouraged the Board to support Golden Charter Academy.

Member Thomas asked to hear about Golden Charter Academy's suspension rates, specifically the statistics for the past three years. Commented that Golden Charter Academy staff and district staff were well prepared and Golden Charter Academy gave a golden presentation.

Member Islas asked for clarification of financing. Requested clarity as to why a blank scoring matrix is in the support materials. Asked to see the scored matrix. Referenced measures used and commented that team review comments did not fully justify the score given. There are a number of sections where there is no comment. I want to call up these items so that we ensure we are doing our due diligence of reviewing what is required and we are relying on staff to provide us what is required and when I see a report that has a lot of blank spaces with check marks that state meets criteria it is not giving me as a Board member the information that gives me confidence that it is in fact there. Member Islas called it out and asked staff to improve.

Member Islas requested to return to the motion made earlier and asked again why this needs to happen now, why expand enrollment when there is not expansion at their current site and the new site will not be ready until a subsequent year, and the city still needs to approve permits

For the record, Board Member Islas motioned to postpone this item until the Board receives confirmation of improvement on the measures as outlined in the criteria. Member Islas said they will be due for a review at the end of their existing petition and if the Board receives information that they have improved there is no reason not to allow them to move to a different address.

For the record, legal counsel Bryan Martin reminded the Board that public comment must take place before a vote.

Member Thomas requested Susan Hatmaker to explain once again, in plain language, this particular revision, and that this is not a charter petition. Asked Robert Golden to explain once again what is taking place with the City of Fresno.

For the record, Robert Golden, Mandy Brewer, Susan Hatmaker, and Felicia Olias were available to provide clarity.

For the record, the Board received nineteen (19) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-20. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Josh Stangby: Did not come to the podium when called.
2. Jeremiah Timothy Smith: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy. Shared firsthand experiences of being a student at Golden.
3. Melanie Smith: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy as a parent and a teacher.
4. Donetta Barber: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy and shared firsthand experiences of being a parent of a student at Golden.
5. Kimi Akina: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy and shared firsthand experiences of being a parent of a student at Golden.
6. Valeria Garcia: Did not come to the podium when called.
7. Daliela Garcia: Did not come to the podium when called.
8. Zahlia Bush: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy. Shared firsthand experiences of being a student at Golden.
9. Taf Wilson: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy as a parent and a teacher.
10. Karla Manuel: Did not come to the podium when called.
11. Kiara Caldwell: Did not come to the podium when called.
12. Tarina Jenkins: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy as a parent and an employee at Golden. Requested the Board to allow Golden to expand and offer their unique educational experiences to more children.
13. Chantel O'Campo: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy. Shared firsthand experiences of being a student at Golden.
14. Danielle Roberts: Did not come to the podium when called.
15. Dennis Roberts: Did not come to the podium when called.
16. Heather Rutowicz: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy. Read a quote by Ronald Edmonds.

17. Dan Zack: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy and reiterated that the Golden Charter Academy building process is very routine and should receive approvals very shortly.
18. Ed Gonzalez, Ed.D.: Withdrew name.
19. Angie Barfield, Ed.D.: Spoke in support of Golden Charter Academy as a community member and shared a personal experience. Commented children deserve pure education and truth in learning.

For the record, Board President Wittrup requested Board Member Islas to restate her motion.

Board Member Islas commented on appreciating hearing from staff and parents, that it was heartwarming to hear the support and passion from those who had an opportunity to speak. Member Islas reiterated she had no interest in denying the request but is interested in the responsibility of the Board to ensure the Board is approving charter schools that provide the best education possible, with an eye on the same standards utilized to judge Fresno Unified. Member Islas commented that the evidence is clear, that there are areas that need improvement.

Member Islas commented that it is possible to manipulate data and rubrics to change outcomes. When compared to comparable schools, Golden is still below in academics and absenteeism.

Member Islas reiterated that the Board should wait for improvement before moving forward with authorization in relation to the building and commented no one can guarantee the completion of the building by 2025.

Member Islas suggested the Board postpone the vote until there is improvement and assurance of the building and its construction.

For the record, legal counsel Bryan Martin commented it might be valuable for the Board to hear from legal counsel Susan Hatmaker for clarification of the premise of the motion and clarify again the scope of the item. Bryan Martin pointed out to the Board that the scope of the item on the agenda is narrow, it is not a review of performance.

Board Member Islas stated she did not need Susan Hatmaker to reiterate and commented the Board should not motion to approve expansion or move without seeing evidence of progress as the district is an educational institution that is looking at improving student outcomes.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board President Wittrup, the Board did not approve the postponement of the material revision for Golden Charter Academy, by a roll call vote of 2-5-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board President Wittrup and Member Islas. NOES: Board Members: Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Clerk Davis.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Board

approved agenda item B-20, by a roll call vote of 5-0-2-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Clerk Davis. ABSTENTIONS: Board President Wittrup and Member Islas.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

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

Member Cazares thanked staff who worked with the Hoover leadership team on their presentation regarding additional recycling bins at Hoover and listening to students as they try to be good stewards of the environment. Member Cazares shared 3,956 people attended the Hoover Region Literacy Night.

Clerk Davis congratulated and welcomed Interim Superintendent Misty Her, and thanked Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D., for his years of service to the students and families of Fresno Unified.

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 Clerk Davis, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-6, A-18, which were pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

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 24, 2024.

A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for April 03, 2024, Board of Education special meeting and April 10, 2024, regular meeting.

A-4, ADOPT Resolution Certifying Governing Board Approval for the “We Can Work” Program

ADOPTED as recommended, a State of California, Fresno Unified School District Resolution. The "We Can Work" program by the California Department of Rehabilitation offers paid work training to Fresno Unified School District students, specifically targeting high school and post-secondary students aged 16-21 with active Individualized Education Program goals.

A-5, APPROVE Appointment to the Audit Committee

APPROVED as recommended, the appointment of Mary Dougherty to the Fresno Unified School District Audit Committee. The Audit Committee convened on April 17, 2024, and unanimously voted to recommend approval of this appointment to the Board of Education.

A-6, APPROVE Agreements for Expanded Learning Summer Camp Enrichment Programs

APPROVED as recommended, a matrix of Request for Qualifications 22-09 prequalified vendors who will lead enrichment services for 2024/25 Summer Camp Programs.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-6. A summary is as follows:

Member Islas requested clarity as to the reason Coach Flip Consulting is on the matrix twice and asked for dates for the summer learning camps. Commended staff for their work putting the camps together.

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

“Agenda item A-6 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains agreements with Hands-On Central California. Hands-On of Central California, operates as the fiscal agent for the Fresno Street Saints. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno Street Saints. I did not participate in the making of the agreements related to this agenda item; however, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

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

“Agenda item A-6 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains service agreements affiliated with the California State University, Fresno.

I am currently employed by Fresno State. I did not participate in the making of the agreements or purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, in the interest of full transparency and an abundance of caution, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, agenda item A-6 was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0-2-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSTENTIONS: Board Members Jonasson Rosas and Levine.

- A-7, APPROVE Agreement with RelayHub**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with RelayHub. Health Services is contracting with RelayHub to provide school-based billing and documentation services related to the district’s Medi-Cal billing.
- A-8, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-46, Baird Middle School Sitework and Portable Improvement**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-46, Baird Middle School Sitework and Portable Improvement.
- A-9, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-47, Birney Elementary School Sitework and Portable Improvement**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-47, Birney Elementary School Sitework and Portable Improvement.
- A-10, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-48, Cooper Middle School Sitework and Portable Improvement**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-48, Cooper Middle School Sitework and Portable Improvement.
- A-11, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-50, Viking Elementary School Sitework and Portable Improvement**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-50, Viking Elementary School Sitework and Portable Improvement.
- A-12, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-51, Wawona Middle School Sitework and Portable Improvement**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-51, Wawona Middle School Sitework and Portable Improvement.
- A-13, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-61, Kirk Elementary School Sitework and Portable Improvement**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-61, Kirk Elementary School Sitework and Portable Improvement.

A-14, APPROVE Award of Bid 24-65, Tehipite Middle School Confidential Space Installation

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 24-65, Tehipite Middle School Confidential Space Installation.

A-15, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals 24-62, Oransi Mod+ Air Purifier Deployment and Commissioning

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposals 24-62, Oransi Mod+ Air Purifier Deployment and Commissioning. The services are to deploy and commission 7,855 Mod+ Air Purifiers to various school site classrooms throughout the district.

A-16, 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 23-48 Section A, Turf Rehabilitation at Various Sites; Bid 23-66 Sections A and B, Heaton, and Webster Elementary Schools Playground Equipment Replacement; Bid 23-66 Section C, Scandinavian Middle School Playground Equipment Replacement.

A-17, RATIFY Purchase Orders from February 01, 2024, through February 29, 2024 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from February 01, 2024, through February 29, 2024 – Primary Report.

A-18, RATIFY Purchase Orders from February 01, 2024, through February 29, 2024 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from February 01, 2024, through February 29, 2024 – Supplemental Report.

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

“Agenda item A-18 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, Foundation California State University Fresno, CSUF Music Fund, the CSUF Downing Planetarium, and Fresno State University. I am currently employed by Fresno State.

Agenda item A-18 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 agreements or purchase orders related to these agenda items; however, because of my employment with both Fresno State and Fresno EOC I have a remote financial interest.

Therefore, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, agenda item A-18 was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Islas, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSTENTIONS: Board Members Levine.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-19, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Council of the Great City Schools Report

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-19.

For the record, during Dr. Hart's presentation, legal counsel Bryan Martin reminded that pursuant to Board Bylaw 9320, the meeting must adjourn at 10:30 p.m. unless the Board extends the time to a time certain by vote.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board President Wittrup, the Board approved to extend the meeting by 30 minutes 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.

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

Board President Wittrup asked if a recommendation by the Council of the Great City is for the district to stop doing patterns of strengths and learning as our SLD criteria eligibility and commented on past use of severe discrepancy and then patterns of strengths and weaknesses, but the district did not have interventions, so there was much talk over the years about RTI but the district did not actually have the interventions to measure the response to intervention.

Clerk Davis referenced the findings and recommendations, specifically a note that addressed fragmentation of central office personnel, with district resources now divided in three departments DPI, Special Education, Health Services and Safety/Security, and asked if other districts in the Council are finding success when they group all departments together.

Member Levine thanked Dr. Hart for the work put into the report and presentation. Apologized for the lateness of the hour. Asked, as this is a living document, what are the plans to utilize, is there a conversation about a workshop, next steps for the Board and Fresno Unified.

Member Levine commented on being curious about changing the supervision of Regional Instructional Managers and asked as the district is in the budget process now, is it too late to implement any of these recommendations. Expressed appreciation for the framing upfront, whether it is the inclusion of MTSS or in general, connecting our broader reality and context into the conversation and the spirit of the recommendations.

Member Levine commented that the work cannot stay in silos; this is all of us. Member Levine commented on being curious regarding major urbans across the country both during the pandemic and since the pandemic around unfinished learning as it looked like Chicago schools had a very minimal amount of unfinished learning during the pandemic and it appears like they have had gains since the pandemic--how can we learn from best practices in those places.

Member Cazares expressed appreciation for recommendations that included students that are not necessarily in special education programs, especially recommendations around providing umbrella services to all students, as well as reading instruction should not stop after elementary grades.

Member Cazares commented on supporting reading instruction beyond elementary grades from the beginning of the district's literacy campaign and test scores show that after sixth grade it just really goes south; it may be something that seems really small, but I will reiterate it because to me it is big. Commented there are middle and high school student athletes that do not have good test scores and cannot participate in sports that they have been playing since they were in T-ball.

Member Thomas commented that the discussion tonight is what should happen at all Board meetings, the Board should talk this out, should receive presentations, should know where the district is at all times. The presentations do not need to be long but should come before the Board regularly.

Member Thomas expressed frustration with the concept of adopting things and paying people to provide recommendations that then sit on the sideline since 2018 and requested staff to implement a process other than a board communication of communicating as the community needs to know as well, they know the bad stuff, but the good is silent because we are not in front of it.

Member Thomas proposed the Board visit this work at least once a semester and does not want this to sit and then in two or three years there is another presentation. Member Thomas asked Interim Superintendent to please make sure the Board is on top of this and to make sure people come together. Member Thomas referred to a comment made by Interim Superintendent that one of the main things of importance is to make sure staff talk to each other and stop trying to hoard information because if information is not shared, we do not learn from each other, and commented this is a place where she would like to see that work done.

Member Jonasson Rosas lamented that this presentation is on such an impacted agenda and would have liked to devote more time to this topic that merits discussion and almost feeling robbed of that opportunity and asked to circle back with staff.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented on appreciating the first time Council staff came out and the conversations had, and now the Council's willingness to step in and assess where Fresno Unified is with the implementations to date, and helping the district to course correct, to ensure accountability to the improvements the district said it would implement. Commented it would merit staff holding small group meetings with the Board to regularly monitor the progress towards the goals; especially, in the areas that the Council identified as deficient. Thanked Dr. Hart and staff for coming out to collaborate with the team.

Board President Wittrup thanked Dr. Hart for the presentation. Commented that this is the beginning as there is work to do in this particular area. Expressed appreciation for the addition of the document, *From Mirrors to Windows*.

Board Member Islas commented it would be helpful to see comparison of what is different from the 2018 recommendations to date and does not understand why the Board does not quickly adopt the recommendations and put into action, would like to see expediency. Commented to the Interim Superintendent that if there is a need to revamp the special education department to get acceleration in these recommendations then we should act with haste in that in particular.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received one (1) request to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Oscar Gutierrez: Spoke on concerns pertaining to auction protocols.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of C21-C25.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 10:53 p.m.