



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
ELECTRONIC PLATFORM**

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
Fresno Unified School District**

**Fresno, California  
August 26, 2020**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 Paragraph 3, the August 26, 2020 Board of Education meeting will be held via teleconferencing and will be available for all members of the public seeking to observe via [U<http://go.fresnounified.org/ustream/U>](http://go.fresnounified.org/ustream/U), or on the Ustream App on your [Android](#) or [Apple](#) device, Comcast Xfinity Channel 94 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, or through the following teleconference line: **Teleconference Line – English**: Dial in: +1 559-512-2623, Passcode: 982 851 552#; **Teleconference Line – Spanish**: Dial in: +1 559-512-2623, Passcode: 951 997 541#.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on August 26, 2020, there were present Board Members Davis, Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and President Thomas. Superintendent Nelson was also present.

Board President Thomas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. and ADJOURNED to Closed Session to address items one through five.

The Board RECONVENED in Open Session at 5:35 p.m.

**Reporting Out of Closed Session**

- On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Mills, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 the Board took action in closed session on a Workers' Compensation claim for Mary H. Gonzalez, Case No. WC18-0622-1181.
- On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 the Board took action in closed session on a Workers' Compensation claim for Nancy Huff, Case No. 2017-0233.

**HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- Congratulated Sunnyside High School for being named as a top school in the State for the Race to Submit campaign, sponsored by the California Student Aid Commission. For three consecutive years, Sunnyside has been among 24 high

schools with the highest financial aid application completion rates in the State. The commission has certified that 86.24% of Sunnyside seniors completed the FAFSA or the CADAA.

- Shared Duncan Polytechnical High School physics teacher Bouakham Sriri-Perez was named the National Schools Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTEC) Teacher of the Year. Throughout her 20-year career, Sriri- Perez has consistently made physics an accessible and exciting subject and has helped to build and grow the physics department at Duncan. In addition, Bouakham's intentional recruitment efforts increased female enrollment in physics from 10% to 40%.
- Congratulated Lisa Nichols and Tressa Overstreet for both being named one of the Marjaree Mason Center's Top Ten Professional Women this year. These two women lead incredible work in our district and always have their hearts and minds tuned to what our students and families need the most.
- Congratulated our A4 Afterschool Reading Summer Program for another great year. Pivoting to a fully online model, the team served 329 students at 9 sites with 100% of students completing their action plans, 92% of parents engaging, and 83% of students exceeding their reading goal.
- Shared 104 students participated in our Teacher Academy Summer Program where Juniors and Seniors helped support students and staff of our A4 Summer Program and our English Learner Summer Programs. This pipeline program starting in high school prepares the next generation of amazing teachers in our system. They are recruiting now for their 2020/21 Teacher Academy Saturday Program so make sure to get your online application in by August 31 if you'd like to participate. We are also currently recruiting for our 2020/21 Leadership Academy. Staff with an administrative credential who haven't stepped into a formal leadership role are encouraged to join this cohort. The program will hold a virtual informational session on Monday, August 31 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact Melanie Koons in Leadership Development to RSVP.
- Reminded staff to make sure to complete the Cultural Competence Needs Assessment by September 11. Staff should have received an email from the Communications Office with a link to complete the survey. Your participation in the survey helps our DEI Praxis, which you heard about at our last board meeting, to plan learning opportunities that best speak to the needs of our district.
- Stated we still need help getting all of our 7th graders up to date with their required immunizations. We have made huge strides moving from 65% compliance to 86% compliance in the last couple of weeks, but that still means 14% of our 7th graders need their immunizations. You can find a list of immunization clinics at our website and get those immunizations as soon as possible as they are still required to participate in online learning.

- Shared we are still enrolling for our Early Learning programs including our Dual Immersion programs. If you'd like to have your child registered, you can enroll online at our website or call us at (559) 457- 3862.
- Shared a video highlighting our return to school that shows the great job teachers and students are doing.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

**Trustee Major Slatic** – Requested a timeline of when Board Members could expect to receive an update from district staff, based on the report from the California Department of Public Health pertaining to student cohorts returning to school. Requested board communications on several topics as follows: Mandated reporting, was disappointed with previous communication provided and would like a follow up to provide clarity; Student faces displayed during Team Meetings with teachers, how is average daily attendance being calculated, what is standard of practice with sister districts; Contracted certificated tutors; District policy on wearing face masks; Number of special education assessments waiting to be completed. Requested clarity as to why delay in sending emails to special education staff pertaining to safety equipment.

**Trustee Islas** – Commended Food Services staff for their work. Thanked the City of Fresno for reimbursement to the district for the Adult Meals program provided by the district. Requested clarity as to the difference in meals provided from region to region. Referenced board communication pertaining to SRO/SNRO contracts and commented for the public that this is not defunding the SRO/SNRO contracts but aligning the contracts to other vendors within the district. Requested a discussion take place pertaining to the SRO/SNRO issue to allow all voices to participate and requested colleagues to think about needs being fulfilled by these contracts and if needs can be met another way.

**Trustee Jonasson Rosas** – Commented on board communication pertaining to seventh grade immunization compliance and asked for status update on elementary immunization compliance. Requested the district to look at partnering with outside agencies in order to bring medical services to students. Referenced board communication pertaining to the demolition at the Hedges site, requested staff to provide several options for board members to choose from when making recommendations for the site. Requested the district to use robust observation when conducting attendance visits and to look for signs of abuse and neglect.

**Trustee Mills** – Welcomed staff and students to the new school year. Thanked staff for work with distance learning. Requested students to have cameras on for attendance purposes during Team Meetings with teachers. Thanked the district for providing face masks, suggested masks be in regional colors. Shared concern pertaining to Gaggle. Requested follow up board communication pertaining to the Konkle property. Suggested future construction projects be done with a project labor agreement.

**Trustee Cazares** – Thanked teachers, staff, and administrators for the start of the new school year. Shared she does not see failures but areas for growth. Asked all to be patience with each other, support each other, and count on Superintendent to provide staff the tools to succeed. Thanked her local school for start of new year. Talked with Chancellor of UC Merced and asked how the district can partner with UC Merced to encourage students to apply.

**Trustee Davis** – Congratulated those who participated in the A4 Summer Program, both students and teachers. Thanked the Fresno Exchange Club for their book donation. Congratulated Sunnyside for the FASFA award. Thanked Sunnyside Region teachers and staff for their work with FASFA applications. Thanked City Council Members for contribution to the Adult Meals program. Recognized Tressa Overstreet and Lisa Nichols for being honored by the Marjaree Mason Center. Thanked district staff for their work and commitment.

**Board President Thomas** – Congratulated Lisa and Tressa. Shared information pertaining to the Backpack Give-away and thanked the West Fresno Resource Center for partnering with the district. Provided information pertaining to the renaming of the A Street Child Center. Recognized Jeannie Butler for delivering desks to students. Recognized the way people pulled together to make sure students had what they needed. Mrs. Karkazian at Columbia made home visits to every one of her students. Shout out to Lincoln and King. Thanked all teachers for showing up!

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

For the record, there were no individuals who submitted public comments for the Consent Agenda.

For the record, staff pulled from the Consent agenda, Agenda Item A-8, Approve Agreement with Fresno County Early Stars Program.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Consent Agenda was approved, apart from Agenda Items A-8 and A-11, on a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Davis, Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas.

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A-1, APPROVE Personnel List**

**APPROVED as recommended**, the Personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.

### **A-2, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting**

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes from the August 12, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

- A-3, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, Variable Term Waivers for Teachers that have exhausted the Provisional Internship Permit and the Short-Term Staff Permit.
- A-4, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Bilingual, Cross-cultural, Language and Development Authorization**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, Variable Term Waiver requests for Natalie Rodriguez, Alma Vargas Lopez, Noemi Rodriguez, Sasah Xiong, Ann Xiong, Sara Topete, Celia Maldonado, Esmeralda Tinoco Perez, and Blanca Saucedo Meza to serve as Dual Immersion Multiple Subject teachers.
- A-5, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Career Technical Education Credential Holders**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, Variable Term Waiver for Career Technical Education (CTE) Credential holders.
- A-6, APPROVE 2020/21 Year Salary Schedules for All Employee Classifications and Prior Years 2012/13 through 2019/20 Certificated Nurses 200 Duty Day Salary Schedules**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the 2020/21 Year Salary Schedules for All Employee Classifications and prior years 2012/13 through 2019/20 for certificated nurses 200 duty day salary schedules.
- A-7, APPROVE 2020/21 Spring Release Consolidated Application to the California Department of Education**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, a budget summary for the Consolidated Application (Con App).
- A-8, APPROVE Agreement with Fresno County Early Stars Program**  
**PULLED BY STAFF**
- A-9, APPROVE Award of Bid 21-04, McLane High School Career Technical Education (CTE) Classroom Improvements**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 21-04, to modify two existing classrooms in McLane High School's Building T (map in binder) to house the Media Arts and Entertainment CTE pathway.
- A-10, APPROVE Fresno County Cradle to Career Partnership**  
**APPROVED as recommended.**
- A-11, APPROVE the Naming of Edison High School Football Field**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, a request to name the Edison High School Football Field, Tony Perry Field.

For the record Board President read three emails from people in support of Tony Perry. Summaries are as follows:

1. CJ Jones

He and Tony Perry were friends for over 30 years and traveled the country together finding new talent and trying to be great individuals to students who wouldn't otherwise see greatness.

2. Robert Golden

Tony was a West Fresno legend. He was an advocate for underserved youth throughout our Valley. Tony was known for his ability to coach to the outside world but for many youth Tony was a mentor, who kids saw as a father figure. Tony gave children hope for their future. He had the type of influence that made children believe they can. He was dedicated to leadership and the youth for the majority of his life. Playing in the NFL was always a dream of mine. I can honestly say if it had not been for Tony, there is no telling where I would be today. Tony was a huge impact in my life and thousands of other children throughout our community. Thank you, Coach Perry. Rest in Peace.

3. Ricky Manning

The Great TP was legendary to me and countless other student athletes in West Fresno. TP was more than a coach to me, he was a big brother, a friend, an uncle, a mentor, a leader and the person who encouraged me. TP was my confidante. He instilled in us to talk like the best, walk like the best, to beat the best, and to become the best. He made a 5'9, 170 pound, Corner believe there was not one Receiver he could not dominate, not one Running Back he couldn't tackle, not a Quarterback he could not intercept, and in college and then into the NFL he helped me. He continued to be my coach, my feeder, my mentor, my father. He taught me to be a husband, he taught me to be a role model, and to the next generation of all athletes that's what I am today. I thank God that he blessed me for being a part of Tony's life.

On a motion by Board President Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, Agenda Item A-11 was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas.

**A-12, DENY Claim GL20-0624-5037**

**DENIED as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL20-0624-5037.

**A-13, RATIFY Purchase Orders from June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and Zero Dollar Contracts**

**APPROVED as recommended.**

## UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, there were two individuals that submitted public comments for Unscheduled Oral Communications. They are as follows:

### 1. Elva Carlos

August 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Elva Carlos and I am the Campus Culture Director at Cambridge High School. I have been teaching at Cambridge for the past 12 years. I have had the pleasure of knowing two amazing School Resource Officers (SROs) at my site and have appreciated their positive support and connection they have had and still have with our students.

During my years at Cambridge, our SROs have supported our students in a positive way. For example, they do not go into classrooms arresting or looking to arrest students. In fact, they have regular conversations with our students. They say hello, ask how they are doing, give high fives, laugh, and most importantly, help with any event or activity I need adult volunteers. When we have school carnivals, they are not only there supervising, but buying food for our students or playing games. Every year, they help either assemble or deliver, in their own personal cars, our annual food baskets during the holidays. They also participate in our lunchtime activities and rally games, which our students love. When our SROs find out the unfortunate living situations some of our students are facing, they are the first to inform our site so our school can provide the appropriate services our students need. They truly care for the well-being of our students.

Each year, the Chief of Police has quarterly student meetings in our district. Small groups of high school students from each site **(250-word limit reached)**

### 2. Pete Pulos

August 24, 2020

Trustee Davis,

As a champion of the Sunnyside Region and Alternative education, I am reaching out as you have a pulse for what is happening at our schools. After the lapse of the School Neighborhood Resource Officer contract, I am compelled to share my concern about the potential non-renewal of our district's School Resource Officer (SRO) contract.

As the principal of Cambridge High School, I have been afforded the unique perspective of 16 years as a High School administrator at four of our district's high schools. Anyone or any organization who believes that our districts SRO's are simply on school sites to enforce the law and make arrests are grossly misinformed.

During my 16 years, I have observed many students graduate from Fresno Unified School District with a more positive outlook on life because of the relationship established with our SRO's. I have had the privilege to witness the impact of our district's SRO's in multiple ways. Below are a few of my observations during my career:

1. Students and families building trust with SRO' as SRO's connect families to resources both at school and in the community.
2. At times, students will experience traumatic experiences that do not immediately get reported because they will not report to anyone but the SRO. For example, a Cambridge student and her mother did not report an incident of abuse until after winter break because mother and student only had trust in our SRO.
3. SRO's routinely volunteer their time to support campus **(250-word limit reached)**

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

### **B-14, PRESENT and DISCUSS Strategic Initiatives to Connect Students, Parents and Families During the 2020/21 School Year**

Presentation by District Staff.

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM B-14.**

For the record, there were zero submissions received for public comment for Agenda Item B-14

For the record, Board Members had questions/comments pertaining to Agenda Item B-14. A summary is as follows: Thanked everyone who has worked through the summer to make distance learning come together. It is a robust plan that looks nothing like what came out in March. Thanked Kurt Madden for getting the emergency cards digitalized. Commended the Communications staff for their work to keep families connected. Shared there is Microsoft/Zoom Team meeting fatigue setting in and asked if there is a different format that might be used, if possible. Suggested that automated calls not be sent at 7:30 a.m. or 8:30 p.m. Expressed appreciation for staff and their work to make this happen and patience that staff has provided to Board Members. Requested if staff could be shifted to the phone support line, in multiple languages from other areas. Requested information on students that might not have a device. Want to make sure we are making it as easy as possible to get students in school. Shared that many parents have received so many School Messenger messages that they are opting out of the program. Requested staff to look for a different way to message. Requested clarity on the hotline number seen on school marquees. Thanked senior staff for their work, many with no summer break and asked they take care of themselves. Requested clarity as to the limited use of tablets, hoping to rethink what the investment would



be to help support families in distance learning formats. Requested staff to continue to build teacher capacity with distance learning. Support idea of district providing earphones to families. Requested clarity as to the LCEP. Asked the district to work as robustly as possible to gather community participation/feedback on the LCEP. Requested clarity as to how many missed classes will trigger a home visit for attendance. Asked how the Board can support the Department of Prevention and Intervention. Requested clarity as to the number of devices given to students and what is being done to track down and identify why students haven't picked up devices. Asked if it is helpful for more than one student in a household to have a hot spot. Suggested videos be created to help parents with internet connection issues. Commented on issue of limited Wi-Fi access of families and how lower socio-economic areas have fewer towers. Encouraged fellow Board Members to advocate for public broadband. Commented on the various ways the district messages to families. Asked staff to let Board Members know what supports the Board can provide in order to take tablets out of the rotation and provide all students with laptops. Requested clarity as to which students the Department of Prevention and Intervention reach out to regarding attendance. Is it all students? Requested a board communication be provided every Friday regarding student attendance and the outreach taking place. Requested clarity pertaining to coverage of hot spot data, is data unlimited? Is enough being provided to cover a family with more than two students. Asked if the district needs to hire more psychologists and social workers? Commended school principals for updates being provided. Thanked Kurt Madden for helping with site computer needs. Commented the replacement of tablets with laptops is in the works. Thanked Nikki Henry and Santino Danisi for work with Town Hall meeting. Chief of Technology Kurt Madden, Superintendent Nelson, Chief Academic Officer Kim Mecum, and Executive Directors Santino Danisi and Ambra O'Connor were available to provided clarity.

For the record, no action was required for Agenda Item B-14.

### **C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**

The Board was in receipt of Agenda Item C-15.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.