

**OCTOBER 07, 2020 Regular Board Meeting**  
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

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

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

**OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items**

**A-4, ADOPT Resolution in Support of the California Proposition 15, Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative**

**1. Jasmine Pantoja**

Hello,

I am a concerned community member and I am providing a public comment to urge the board to support schools and communities by approving the Schools & Communities First (SCF) Prop 15 board resolution. This is money that would greatly benefit the FUSD and children within. Kind regards, Jasmine Pantoja.

**2. Elisha Mendoza**

I'm a Fresno Unified School District community member and 2020 graduate. I'm urging the FUSD to support Prop 15 because it will bring \$51.6 million to FUSD annually. I support Prop 15 because while I was a student in FUSD i noticed the lack of programs our schools offered. The lack of well trained mental health counselors was my greatest concern. Our schools are now filled with a generation of students who suffer severely from mental health issues and the lack of resources to help these students is shameful. It greatly affects one's education if not given the proper help. I'm one of these students. I came from the most honored schools in the district (Manchester Gate & Computech) but the system let me down in high school when I suffered greatly with the struggles of mental illness with no resources available to me. I had a meeting with the school "social worker" in order to discuss these issues senior year, because before then I was never made aware that we had such a person on campus. I left their office feeling even worse than before and they made a phone call to my parent (when told not to by me) which made my living situation dangerous. You need better trained mental health staff as well as staff who will listen to their students. This is just an example of one resource that can be invested in with this money given by prop 15.

**3. Lori Pesante**

Esteemed Members of the Fresno Unified Board of Trustees, Fresno Unified Leadership & Community Members:

My name is Lori Pesante and I am a community member. I provide my Public Comment today to strongly urge you to approve the Resolution Supporting Proposition 15, which would bring over \$51.6 million to Fresno Unified every single year.

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Prop 15 is our pathway out of this pandemic, a bright light of hope in the midst of otherwise very grim budgeting discussions throughout the state. Facing historic wildfires to the east, it will be tremendously helpful for Fresno County to see \$25 million every year flowing into its general fund for firefighters.

The hard work that we already knew lay ahead of will be much more easily tackled when the pinch of a pandemic-decimated budget is no longer a fatal factor. Delano Unified School District recognized this reality and unanimously passed their Prop 15 Resolution on October 5, 2020. It is why hundreds of elected officials, boards, organizations, and small businesses have also endorsed Prop 15.

It is why as a mom and community college teacher, I am proud to also be voting Yes on 15.

Bottom Line, Fresno Unified kids need Prop 15 now more than ever. Please pass this resolution supporting Prop 15. Peace and Good Health to You and Yours.

#### 4. **Cecilia Castro – (Voicemail Transcribed)**

Hello, my name is Cecilia Castro. My comment is for Agenda Item A-4, which is Proposition 15. Uhm, so my name is Cecilia Castro, I am the Deputy Director for the Delores Huerta Foundation, which is an organization that works with parents and families of Fresno Unified School District. First off, I just want to thank the District for being a leader in the Central Valley who include a resolution to support Proposition 15. Right now, it is extremely critical that we think about what additional funding the District can receive in order to support students that have been experiencing extreme hardship due to COVID-19. Uhm, so again, the \$51 million dollars that Proposition 15 will generate for the school district is uhm going to greatly benefit students and families of Fresno. And while I'm here and many of our young people are here today thanking you for the support of Proposition 15, we are also deeply concerned and disappointed to hear that Fresno Unified plans on using \$800,000 for police in school, especially in our middle schools. While we are here to advocate for additional funding it is clear that funding that is currently being used is not supporting our black and brown students but further criminalizing those young students, especially those in our middle schools. I really ask you to really reconsider and reallocate those dollars into support services for students. Think about what \$800,000 could really bring in services to those students that really need it. Like **(250-word limit reached)**

#### **A-8, APPROVE Agreement with City of Fresno Police Department for Student Neighborhood Resource Officers at Middle Schools and DeWolf High School**

Staff has pulled Agenda Item A-8 from the Board Agenda; therefore, public comments for these items have also been pulled.

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**UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

**B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**B-20, PRESENT and DISCUSS Fresno Unified School District Transfer Overview**

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.