



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
2309 TULARE STREET  
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR  
FRESNO, CA 93721-2287  
[www.fresnounified.org/board](http://www.fresnounified.org/board)

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

**Fresno, California  
October 07, 2020**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 Paragraph 3, the October 07, 2020 Board of Education meeting was held via teleconferencing and was available for all members of the public seeking to observe via <http://go.fresnounified.org/ustream/>, 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 October 07, 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 seven.

The Board RECONVENED in Open Session at 6:07 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 Gregory Hardeman, Fresno Unified Case No. 2016-0597.

### **HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives**

The Board heard a report from Genevieve Saldana, Lorina Luna, and Leah Acosta Student Advisory Board representatives from Roosevelt High School; and students from Tehipite Middle School spoke about what they love about Tehipite.

### **HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- Honored and recognized our amazing principals across the district during National Principals Month. If you would like to make a "shout out" to a principal, email your "shout out" and a picture to our Communications team at [communications@fresnounified.org](mailto:communications@fresnounified.org) and it might be featured on our district's social media.

- Recognized today is California Clean Air Day, and with the terrible air quality as of late there is no better time to reflect on our work as individuals and as a district to help improve the air quality in our area. A few tips for us all as we do our part:
  - Bundle your online purchases to once a week delivery to cut down on transportation and pollution
  - Don't idle your engine
  - Buy your produce locally
  - Bring your own lunch
  - Walk or ride your bike to work
  - Replace your gas-powered tools with electric or hand operated tools
  
- Reminded everyone last week we shifted the focus of our IPledge campaign in October to focus on our support of the Class of 2021. We are making our pledges to support our seniors and specifically we are gathering our teams to join in our Virtual Run/Walk for the Class of 2021 fundraiser for our Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund. Normally, at this time each year we are gathering for our State of Education Luncheon, which raised over \$46,000 for our scholarship fund last year. This year we have pivoted to our virtual Run/Walk as we are unable to gather in large groups, and I'm proud to say we have already raised over \$47,000 in sponsorships and tickets sales for the Class of 2021! You have until October 16 to get your tickets for the November 14 virtual run/walk, which includes an awesome swag bag for all participants. So, please head to [Fresnounified.org](http://Fresnounified.org) to join in.
  
- Reported the recent successful General Obligation (GO) bonds sale and several refinancing opportunities, including the central kitchen. Timing on the bond sale was impeccable with an all-time low interest rate environment. Although comments from the Federal Reserve regarding the national inflation policy and the general national economic outlook resulted in investor uncertainty, the district was able to produce a great result. The refinancing GO bonds generated excess demand of 2.5 times the orders with all maturities 100% filled and generated \$10.7 million in savings to the taxpayers at 2.27% interest rate. The measure X bonds generated 2.7 times demand again with all maturities 100% filled at a 2.39% interest rate. And the central kitchen lease refinance resulted in a \$1.2 million savings to the district. In most exciting news, the sale included several local investors including the City of Clovis and Bank of the Sierra. We are fortunate to have these excellent results.
  
- Called out the great work of our DEI Praxis Collaborative in getting out the first DEI Newsletter at the end of September. Fresno Unified staff should have received the link to the newsletter to your district email from Communications. If you click the link, you'll see the great interactive newsletter through Microsoft Sway with recommendations on ways to engage with your own DEI work through the categories of Watch, Read, Act, Celebrate and joining in upcoming events. This

work is crucial for each and every one of our Fresno Unified staff to be engaged in and you will see this newsletter link in your inbox every other month.

- Shared information regarding our students and families utilizing district provided hotspots. We heard from some of our families and students that their hotspot usage slowed down at times and we wanted to provide a bit of clarity. The hotspots provided have 10 gigabytes of data available on them each month, which is more than enough to participate in distance learning. However, it is not more than enough data to utilize other streaming sites for personal use such as downloading movies or watching Netflix. We encourage all of our students and families to ensure that hotspots are being utilized for educational purposes only to avoid any slowdowns in data throughout the month. As always, if you need a hotspot or are having trouble with the hotspot you have been issued please reach out to our FLATS Center at 559-457-3939.
- Provided a quick update to our entire Fresno Unified Family regarding the County's current status in the State's Reopening tiers and what that means for schools. This Tuesday in the State's update of each county's progress, our case rate per 100,000 residents raised back into the purple tier from the red tier and the positivity rate raised from the orange tier to the red tier. This unfortunately means that our rates are trending upwards and in the wrong direction. We are still in the red tier, but if on Tuesday, October 13 we are still in the purple tier for one or both of the metrics that means our county as a whole moves back to the purple tier, This means that we cannot continue moving forward in any school reopening plans without a waiver and jeopardizes our progress in even our smallest cohorts of high-need students returning for on-campus supervision and support. Please, ensure that you and your loved ones are taking this seriously by continuing to wear your masks, practicing physical distancing of at least 6 feet, and not socially mixing with those outside of your own household. We will keep you updated as we get more information so stay tuned to our district website, social media, and make sure you are signed up for ATLAS and EduText with accurate phone numbers to reach you.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

**Member Major Slatic** – Requested clarity pertaining to Board Communication No. AS2, Weekly Attendance Update, dated October 2, 2020; would like the definition of a successful contact, which is mentioned in the communication. He would like the communication to be a granular document. Additionally, would like clarity pertaining to absences, are the absences the same students from week to week, are No Shows captured in the absences. Requested clarity pertaining to Board Communication No. C1, Fresno High Mascot Logo, dated September 25, 2020; would like district staff to confirm that a school mascot or logo is not changed unless going to the federal level.

**Member Davis** – Thanked Superintendent Nelson for message in honor of Principal Tim Liles. Thanked Macy’s at Fashion Fair for opening their doors to 60 Gaston and Edison students. Thanked Kohl’s at River Park for opening their doors to Kings, Kirk, Ayer, Balderas, and Leavenworth students. The East Fresno Kiwanis provide breakfast at both events and provided \$160 to those student’s going to Kohl’s. Recognized Carla Hartunian for volunteering. Shared the Fresno Exchange Club is providing bikes to students with perfect attendance.

**Member Islas** – Provided a shout out to Mayfair Elementary and Principal Ockey for their good work, Mayfair has confirmed 100% device registration. Addressed two agenda items regarding contracts with the Fresno Police Department and the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office (Items A8 and A9) which were pulled by staff from the October 07, 2020 agenda. Wished to state for the record she has been told by staff there is a commitment to hold a public engagement process prior to these agenda items returning. Additionally, any public comments for these items will be preserved and reinserted when the items return. Requested clarity and a Board Communication as to fees for services rendered as it appears there is a discrepancy.

**Member Cazares** – Requested staff to provide follow up to the mascot issue, would like to receive information which can be provided to community.

**Board President Thomas** – Requested staff to provide a Board Communication pertaining to the mascot issue.

**Student Member Camarillo** – Requested Superintendent get student voice pertaining to the issue of police on campus. Recommended a non-bias survey that will truly capture the student voice.

**Student Member Romero** – Recognized student-wellness during distance learning.

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

For the record, Staff pulled Board Agenda Items A-8 and A-9 from the Consent Agenda; therefore, comments pertaining to Agenda Items A-8 and A-9 were pulled. The Board received four submissions for public comment for Agenda Item A-4. Comments are as follows:

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.

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)**

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, the Consent Agenda was approved on 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. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

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

**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes from the September 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

##### **A-3, ADOPT Resolution in Support of the Declaration of Being an Anti-Racism Institution**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, a resolution in support of the Declaration of Being an Anti-Racism Institution.

For the record, Board Members had questions/comments pertaining to Agenda Item A-3. A summary is as follows: Asked if this resolution is needed because Fresno Unified is a racist institution. Asked why this resolution did not ask for a colorblind or equal opportunity organization. Asked if Trustees are more interested in making political statements than providing strategic direction to the school district. Commented that tens of thousands of retired employees are disrespected by this resolution. Shared concern by the comments of colleague on the Board. Stated, using the term colorblind is a discredit, need to recognize diversity; the goal is to practice cultural humility that appreciates diversity and prevents any unfair advantage or unfair disadvantage. Commented this resolution is not a disrespect to good teachers, but an acknowledgement of a problem, and that there has been

disadvantage for some students. Commented we can't say the district is meeting all listed in the resolution but can say the district is working on it and the district is committed to doing better. Commented the resolution does not lean on a political statement but as a focus the district will move toward to be an anti-racism institution. Commented the resolution is a signal to the community that the district recognizes diversity and is not colorblind. Commented that racism is real. Asked for empathy for people on the Board and students of color within the district. Extended offer to colleague to sit and share personal experiences dealing with racism. Shared there has been strife due to the color of skin and the Board would like to change that for students. Referenced when the Board felt the need to proclaim the district as a safe place, and now in a similar situation feel the need to proclaim the district as anti-racist to let the community know where the district stands. Commented the community has experienced incidents of racial insensitivity. The district cannot build the type of culture it needs until the onus of responsibility is based on those perpetuating actions racist in nature and not on those speaking out against racism. The district must eliminate any form of cultural retribution. Commended staff on their work for this resolution.

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item A-3 was adopted by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mill, and Board President Thomas. NOES: Board Member Major Slatic.

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

**ADOPTED as recommended**, a resolution in support of California Proposition 15, Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative on the November 2020 ballot.

For the record, Board Members had questions/comments pertaining to Agenda Item A-4. A summary is as follows: Shared this resolution is a milestone as Prop 15 will reclaim approximately \$12 million for schools and communities.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Clerk Davis, Agenda Item A-4 was adopted by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mill, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas.

**A-5, ADOPT Resolution Delineating Authorized District Agents to Sign on Behalf of Fresno Unified School District**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution 20-05 to update authorized officials to sign various business transactions on behalf of Fresno Unified School District.

- A-6, APPROVE Use of Individual Piggyback Contracts**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information regarding piggyback contracts recommended for use during the remainder of 2020/21 for efficient and cost-effective procurement.
- A-7, APPROVE Center for Leadership Equity and Research Service Agreement**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the agreement with The Center for Leadership Equity and Research.
- A-8, APPROVE Agreement with City of Fresno Police Department for Student Neighborhood Resource Officers at Middle Schools and DeWolf High School**  
**ITEM PULLED BY STAFF**
- A-9, APPROVE Agreement with County of Fresno Sheriff's Office for a Deputy Sheriff at Wawona K-8 School**  
**ITEM PULLED BY STAFF**
- A-10, APPROVE Amendment with Education Leadership Foundation Independent Contractors Services Agreement for InterAct Fellows**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an Amendment with Education Leadership Foundation Independent Contractors Services Agreement for InterAct Fellows
- A-11, APPROVE Amendment with Rosetta Stone Independent Contractors Services Agreement**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, an amendment with Rosetta Stone Independent Contractors Services Agreement.
- A-12, APPROVE Award of Bid 21-07, McLane High School Fire Alarm Upgrade**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 21-07, to upgrade the existing fire alarm system in all permanent and modular buildings at McLane High School with the new district standard emergency voice alarm communication system.
- A-13, APPROVE Award of Bid 21-08, Sunnyside High School Installation of Stadium Turf**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 21-08, to install district-supplied synthetic turf at Sunnyside High School Stadium.
- A-14, RATIFY Grant Agreement with Fresno County Transportation Authority for Two New Low Emission School Buses**  
**RATIFIED as recommended**, a grant agreement with the Fresno County Transportation Authority for funding for two new low-emission school buses.
- A-15, RATIFY Agreement with Dr. Graphix**  
**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with Dr. Graphix (David Rodriguez) to provide branding and marketing services for the district's new district vision, mission, core values and goals

**A-16, RATIFY Change Orders for the Projects Listed Below**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, Change Orders for the following projects: Bid 19-31 Sections B and C, Lighting Improvements Phase 2: (Section B) Burroughs, Jefferson, and Turner Elementary Schools and Kings Canyon Middle School; (Section C) Ginsburg, Holland, King, and Pyle Elementary Schools, Change Order 1 presented for ratification (Sections B and C): \$13,164; Bid 19-42 Sections B, C and D, Lighting Improvements Phase 3: (Section B) Heaton, Manchester, Mayfair, Norseman, Phoenix Academy Elementary Schools and Fresno High School; (Section C) Balderas, Calwa, Greenberg, Storey Elementary Schools, Terronez Middle School and Sunnyside High School; (Section D) Hidalgo, Leavenworth, Lowell Elementary Schools, Edison High School, Cesar Chavez Adult School and The Center for Professional Development, Change Order 2 presented for ratification (Sections B, C, D): \$43,274; Bid 20-11, Ericson Elementary School Early Learning Building Construction and Interim Housing Infrastructure, Change Order 1 presented for ratification (Interim Housing): \$91,882, Change Orders 1-3 presented for ratification (Early Learning Building): \$170,701; Bid 20-20, McLane High School Library Modernization, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$10,068; Bid 20-25, Ahwahnee Middle School HVAC Replacement for Classroom Building, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$7,253; Bid 20-42 Section C, Exterior Painting at Leavenworth Elementary School and Scandinavian Middle School, Change Order 1 presented for ratification (Scandinavian): \$6,790; Bid 20-48, Computech Middle School Parking Lot Improvements and Modular Classroom Infrastructure, Change Order 1 presented for ratification (Parking Lot): \$41,418.

**A-17, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, a Notice of Completion for the following projects, which have been completed according to plans and specifications. Bid 20-25 Ahwahnee Middle School HVAC Replacement for Classroom Building; Bid 20-42 Section B, C, and E, (Section B & E) Exterior Painting at Anthony, Homan, King Elementary Schools and Ventura and 10th; (Section C) Exterior Painting at Leavenworth Elementary School and Scandinavian Middle School; Bid 20-43 Section A, B and C, Playground Equipment Installation for Various Elementary Schools.

**A-18, RATIFY Purchase Orders from July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020 – Primary Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from July 01, 2020 through July 31, 2020. 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-19, RATIFY Purchase Orders from July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020 – Supplemental Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

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

“Item A-19 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains a purchase order for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. I am employed by Fresno EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation. I did not participate in making the contracts related to these purchase order; but, because of my employment with Fresno EOC, I have a remote financial interest in the contracts. Therefore, consistent with my prior recusals relating to Fresno EOC, and 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 President Thomas, Agenda Item A-19 was adopted by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Islas, Mill, Major Slatic, and Board President Thomas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

**UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

For the record zero submissions of public comment were received for Unscheduled Oral Communications.

**B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the record, zero submissions were received for public comment on Agenda Item B-20.

For the record, Board Members had questions or comments pertaining to Agenda Item B20. A summary is as follows: Thanked staff for presentation as it has been an area of interest. Asked how the system can be made more equitable for students, especially those students and families that live in the district and are voting on bond measures and paying taxes in the district? The community would like transparency in the system, once rules are set everyone knows the rules and everyone plays by the same rules and its fair for all students. How many of the

2,000 students which were not placed, lived within Fresno Unified? We need to have a preference for those students/families that live within Fresno Unified boundaries. Would like the district to consider an extended deadline for applications from families within district boundaries. Would like legal counsel to provide clarity pertaining to State law regarding separating out applications. Would like staff to look at transportation for transfers. Thanked Board Member Jonasson Rosas for her persistence on this item. How do placements take precedence over other placements? Requested clarity as to criteria to revoke a transfer. Requested clarity as to Administrative Transfers. Interim Chief Financial Officer Santino Danisi provided clarity.

For the record, no action was required for Agenda Item B-20.

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

The Board was in receipt of agenda item C-21.

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Thomas ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:52 p.m.