

December 16, 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

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

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Rhonda West

I am a parent of an EHS senior writing regarding the online class schedule for FUSD second semester 2020-21. Bob Nelson stated that the decision for the change in schedule was made with, "All hands on deck", "All done collaboratively". However, I have yet to speak with any FUSD parents or students who were consulted regarding these planned schedule changes. The well-being of students should be the top priority. The current daily required screen time is already too excessive and exceeds the time limit considered to be healthy or productive. After students finish with their classes online, they still need to complete their homework online. With the planned changes to the online schedule, students will lose focus and the quality of the instruction and learning will suffer even more as students are expected to sit in front of their screens daily for additional time. The current online schedule is a better option because it spreads the screen time over 5 shorter days versus 4 longer days of online instruction. Sincerely, Rhonda West

2. Joy Rodriguez Finocchio

Dear Fresno Unified School Board,

I am the parent of an EHS senior and freshman. I'm writing in regards to the online class schedule for the second semester starting after winter break. Bob Nelson stated that the decision for the change in schedule was made with, "All hands on deck", and "All done collaboratively." However, I have yet to speak with any other FUSD parents or students who were consulted regarding these planned schedule changes. The well-being of students should be the top priority. The current daily required screen time is already too excessive and exceeds the daily time limit considered to be healthy. In addition, after students finish with their classes online, they still need to complete their homework online. With the planned changes to the online schedule, students will lose focus and the quality of the instruction and learning will suffer as a result of students spend more time sitting in front of a screen for additional time daily. The current online schedule is a better option because it spreads the time over 5 shorter days versus 4 longer days of instructions and limits the amount of time my children have to spend in front of a screen. Sincerely, Joy Rodriguez Finocchio

3. Riley Walton

My name is Riley Walton and I am a senior at Edison High School. I am writing regarding the new second-semester schedule for Fresno Unified. Firstly, students cannot reasonably be expected to focus for over an hour while the "maximum attention span for an average adult is 20 minutes" (Gutenberg Technology.) If an adult cannot focus for hardly more than a quarter of the newly projected class time, I leave you to imagine what the nightmare of online learning has been thus far. This has been exemplified in my own lectures too many times to count: silent breakout rooms,

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no contributions to group projects, and mics remaining muted past the 30-minute mark. Another issue is that many students and teachers lack the surroundings at home to sustain a proper learning environment. There have been countless instances in which children, neighbors, and pets have prevented a class meeting from proceeding smoothly. The 15-minute extension will only exaggerate these issues. Lastly, many students my age have jobs that help support their families or themselves. Online education has allowed many of my peers, including myself, to pick up extra hours at work and secure a more fruitful schedule following the dismissal from class at 12:30 pm. A longer school day will disrupt the work of hundreds of students who rely on that income for necessities during this time of the economic collapse. It is for the reasons mentioned above that I request the schedule change be reversed.

4. Mikey West

Dear Superintendent Nelson and Board Members,
I'm a student who attends Edison High. This summer, I was made aware of FUSD's use of Gaggle to monitor many aspects of students' online life without consent. I wrote a letter to FUSD admin explaining why I thought this was wrong. The response I got was dismissive and condescending. I replied asking for clarification. 4 months later and I'm yet to receive a response. The District also chose to employ legal counsel to respond to a student complaint. That is how much this institution values student opinions. Based on FUSD's decision to go to legal counsel, I reached out to the American Civil Liberties Union to explain the situation that I found myself in. I was fortunate enough to receive a response and to find out they share my concerns. This week, a letter was sent from the ACLU, Californians for Justice, Central Valley Partnership, CAIR Sacramento Valley/Central California, Dolores Huerta Foundation, Fresno Barrios Unidos, GSA Network, Hmong Innovating Politics, and SIREN to FUSD calling for an end of the Gaggle requirement. I am writing to express my disappointment in the District leadership and to begin to bring public attention to the present situation. I am aware of other families who are equally disturbed by this. I know monitoring students comes from authentic concern, but it was misguided on many levels as well as rooted in pseudo- statistics. For these reasons, I ask that you immediately end using Gaggle. Thank you.

B-26, DISCUSS and DECIDE in the Matter of the Carter G. Woodson Public Schools' Renewal Petition

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

B-27, PRESENT and DISCUSS Student Voice Collaborative for the 2020/21 School Year

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

B-28, DISCUSS and APPROVE 2nd Amendment to the 2020/21 Academic Calendar

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

B-29, PRESENT and DISCUSS Plans for Stakeholder Engagement Related to the Local Control and Accountability Plan

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

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B-30, OPPORTUNITY for PUBLIC DISCLOSURE and RATIFICATION of the 2020-2021 Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and California School Employees Association, Chapter 125

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

B-31, DISCUSS and APPROVE Appointment of Board Member Voting Representative and Alternate Voting Representative to the Fresno County Committee on School District Organization Elections

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