



BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
2309 TULARE STREET
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR
FRESNO, CA 93721-2287
www.fresnounified.org/board

MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING Fresno Unified School District

**Fresno, California
January 13, 2021**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 Paragraph 3, the January 13, 2021 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 January 13, 2021, there were present Board Members Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas and Board President Davis. Superintendent Dr. Nelson was also present.

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

The Board RECONVENED in Open Session at 5:14 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Mills, seconded by Board Member Major Slatic, by a vote of 7-0-0-0, the Board took action in closed session on a Workers' Compensation claim for Michelle Kasner-Goodell v. Fresno Unified Workers' Compensation Fresno Unified Case No. 2016-0837.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

The Board heard a report from Brandon Aoki, Student Advisory Board representatives from Edison High School, and students from Gaston Middle School.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- Recognized January is National Mentoring Month. Fresno Unified is fortunate to have a designated mentoring office that offers our students a robust range of mentoring supports, including individual, group, and e-mentoring. Our numbers of student mentees have grown from the hundreds to the thousands in the past several years. During virtual learning, not only did we quickly pivot all of our mentoring programs to virtual platforms, we expanded a number of our programs, including peer mentoring for English learner newcomers and a Tech peer mentoring program where peer mentors assist other students who are having technology challenges. During January, the DPI Mentoring Office will be highlighting in social media many of our mentors and school sites that go above and beyond. If you or someone you know is interested in being a mentor. Please reach out to our Prevention & Intervention Office at 457-3340 or visit dpi.fresnounified.org.

- Recognized and celebrated seven students from our district selected to the 2021 California All State Honor Band and Orchestra. Being selected to these ensembles is the highest honor a California music student can receive. The following Fresno Unified musicians have been recognized as one of the top music students in the state of California for the 2020-21 school year:
 - California All State Middle School Honor Orchestra
 - Izzy Cobb, Violin – Computech
 - Xavion Torres, Viola – Computech
 - Betsy Woodward, Cello – Computech
 - Penelope Freeman, Violin – Computech
 - California All State High School Honor Orchestra
 - Rowan Crass, Violin – Edison
 - California All State High School Honor Band
 - Kate Richardson, Euphonium – Bullard
 - David Kglygan, Contrabass Clarinet – Bullard

- Shared our Health Services staff were eligible to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccines this week. Our Health Services staff were able to be accommodated during Phase 1A as health care workers, and we are so grateful to the Fresno County Department of Health for including them. In the Phase 1B, which is planned to begin mid-February, ALL of our Fresno Unified staff will be eligible to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is voluntary, but personally, I have to say I'm very excited for this opportunity and know that as more and more of our community are vaccinated, we'll be able to bring our COVID-19 numbers down. When our COVID numbers as a county reach the Orange tier, we will be able to start phasing back our in-person instruction – and I know that's what we all have been wanting and waiting for. I have to say – if you are NOT a Health Services staff member but have received the link to sign up for a vaccine somehow, please DO NOT make an appointment until it is your turn in Phase 1B. The County Health Department will turn away any ineligible staff at

the appointment. We do not want our Fresno Unified family responsible for creating any bottlenecks in the vaccination rollout by being eager to get our vaccines before our turn.

- Reminded everyone tomorrow kicks off our first of 11 virtual LCAP Town Halls. I want to thank our State and Federal Team and our Strategic Plan Work Team for pivoting this year to a virtual format and being innovative to ensure access and interactivity for our Fresno Unified family to participate in this year's LCAP discussions. These teams have improved our LCAP survey, which is currently available to take on our website, and they've worked hard to make these LCAP Town Halls some of the most interactive we've had. I encourage each and every one of you – students, staff, parents, and community members – to complete the LCAP survey and join us for one of the 11 Town Halls to make your voice heard in our budgeting process. To access the survey and the dates, times, and links to access the LCAP Town Halls, please head to our website at Fresnounified.org.
- Reminded everyone our Virtual Teacher Job Fair is coming up on January 21. This is your chance to join our Fresno Unified family for the 2020/21 school year. To get prepped, head to our website to get signed up for an interview spot and submit your resume and transcripts ahead of time.
- Mentioned tonight you would be hearing from a familiar Fresno Unified family member, Debra Odom. This Friday, Debra will be finishing up a 26-and-a-half-year career with Fresno Unified. She has served our district as a teacher, vice-principal, worked in the Transfers Office, and in the recent 10 years, was a manager for the Charter School Office. Debra, thank you for serving the children, parents, and staff of the Fresno Unified School District – you will be missed.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Member Cazares: Expressed condolences to the Costa family and the staff at Hoover High School. Expressed condolences to the Kanzler family and the staff at Computech Middle School. Shared a reminder with staff, that as we go into the second semester students are vulnerable and need understanding.

Member Islas: Thanked sites working in partnership with the Food Bank with meal distributions to families and the community. Thanked staff for the facility improvements taking place in the McLane Region. Thanked those who are going above and beyond. Reminded people to visit the Fresno County Department of Public Health website.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Welcomed everyone back. Expressed hope that as the year 2021 goes by we all can stay safe.

Member Mills: Welcomed everyone back and a Happy New Year. Encouraged folks to get the COVID-19 vaccination. Expressed appreciation for the new CTE building at Fresno High School. Recognized Mara Curry for narrating the mentoring video shown earlier in the evening.

Board President Davis: Thanked teachers for the Winter Session. Shared credits earned by several high schools.

Board Clerk Thomas: Expressed condolences to those who have lost loved ones. Thanked the Board for honoring LaVera Williams. Asked everyone to stay safe. Shared how proud she was of the teachers that worked and the students that took advantage of the Winter Session.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Board received zero submissions for public comment for items on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas, the Consent Agenda with the exception of items A-9, A-10, A-11, and B-25 which were pulled from the agenda by staff and A-14, A-17, and A-18 which were pulled by the Board for further discussion, was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas and Board President Davis.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

A-1, APPROVE Personnel List

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

A-2, ADOPT Resolutions Delineating Authorized District Agents to Sign on Behalf of Fresno Unified School District

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolutions 20-07 through 20-11 presented for adoption to update authorized officials to sign various business transactions on behalf of Fresno Unified School District.

A-3, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes from the December 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

A-4, APPROVE Appointment to the Audit Committee

APPROVED as recommended, the appointment of Arthur Montejano to the Fresno Unified School District Audit Committee.

A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

A-5, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement for Corwin Press, Inc.

APPROVED as recommended, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement for Corwin Press, Inc.

A-6, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Good Company Players

APPROVED as recommended, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Good Company Players.

A-7, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Men of Color in Educational Leadership

APPROVED as recommended, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement for the national organization, Men of Color in Educational Leadership.

A-8, APPROVE an Independent Contractor Services Agreement between Fresno Unified School District Early Learning Department and Elizabeth Magruder

APPROVED as recommended, an Independent Contractor Services Agreement between Fresno Unified School District Early Learning Department and Elizabeth Magruder.

~~**A-9, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with American Ambulance**~~

~~Included in the Board binders is an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with American Ambulance. Fresno Unified has utilized American Ambulance to provide required services at all Fresno Unified high school football games.~~

~~**ITEM PULLED FROM THE AGENDA BY STAFF**~~

~~**A-10, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Riddell Football**~~

~~Included in the Board binders is an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Riddell Football. Fresno Unified has used Riddell Football for annual reconditioning and recertification of all tackle football helmets and shoulder pads as deemed necessary by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).~~

~~**ITEM PULLED FROM THE AGENDA BY STAFF**~~

~~**A-11, APPROVE Independent Contractor Services Agreement with San Joaquin Valley Officials Association – Central California Amateur Arbiters Sport Officials**~~

~~Included in the Board binders is an Independent Contractor Services Agreement with San Joaquin Valley Officials Association (SJVOA) – Central California Amateur Arbiters Sport Officials (CCAA). Fresno Unified has used SJVOA and CCAA to provide officiating services for elementary, middle school, and high school season contests.~~

~~**ITEM PULLED FROM THE AGENDA BY STAFF**~~

A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

A-12, APPROVE Agreement with Thoughtexchange

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Thought Exchange for an interactive crowdsourcing platform for the 2021 calendar year.

A-13, APPROVE Addendum to Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Advanced Medical Personnel, Inc.

APPROVED as recommended, an addendum to the Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Advanced Medical Personnel, Inc. in the amount of \$2,015,579.

A-14, APPROVE Award of Bid 21-16, Mayfair Elementary School Masonry Block Wall

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 21-16, to install a new 600 linear foot masonry block wall at the north fence line at Mayfair Elementary School.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-14. A summary is as follows: Highlighted what this item will mean for Mayfair regarding safety of students and staff at the school. Thanked staff for moving this item.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item A-14 was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Davis.

A-15, APPROVE Award of Request for Information 21-22, Academic Return on Investment Services

APPROVED as recommended, the award of Request for Information 21-22, for Academic Return on Invest (A-ROI) services. The district is seeking a qualified firm to provide A-ROI analysis and training to develop approaches to evaluate the effectiveness of district programs in relation to investments.

A-16, RATIFY a Multi-year Lease Agreement between Fresno Unified School District Early Learning Department and Housing Authorities of the City and County of Fresno

RATIFIED as recommended, a lease agreement for the Helm Home Building to be used by the Early Learning Department to facilitate the Play and Learn Group.

A-17, RATIFY an Agreement between Fresno Unified School District Early Learning Department and Kern County Superintendent of Schools

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement between Fresno Unified School District Early Learning Department and Kern County Superintendent of Schools from December 17, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-17. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to if the district has in-house staff to provide the work. Chief of Equity and Access, Lindsay Sanders was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Major Slatic, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas, Agenda Item A-17 was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Davis.

A-18, RATIFY Agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools to Provide Student Meals to Career Technical Education Charter High School
RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools for Fresno Unified to provide student meals to approximately 150 students at the Career Technical Education Charter High School.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item A-18. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity on who is providing meals? Requested clarity of dollar amount of reimbursement. Requested clarity as to who gets the USDA reimbursement. Is USDA reimbursement higher or lower. Requested when agreements are presented to the Board the cost/reimbursement to the district should be worked out and the amount presented clearly to the Board. Chief of Operations, Karin Temple, and Director of Food Services, Amanda Harvey, were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Mills, the Board ratified Agenda Item A-18 by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, Thomas, and Board President Davis.

A-19, RATIFY Agreement with Dr-Graphix
RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with Dr-Graphix (David Rodriguez) to provide large scale design and graphic work.

A-20, RATIFY Change Orders for the Projects Listed Below
RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the following projects: Bid 19-51 Sections B and C, Mechanical Improvements for Malloch Elementary School and Tehipite Middle School; and Bid 20-36 Section A, Hoover High School Shade Structure and Site Improvements.

A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

A-21, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for the following projects, which have been completed according to plans and specifications: Bid 20-15, Viking Elementary School Modular Classrooms and Restroom Infrastructure; and Bid 20-46 Sections A and B, Vinland Elementary School Parking Lot Expansion and Site Access Improvements.

A-22, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2020 through October 31, 2020, and Zero-Dollar Contracts

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2020 through October 31, 2020 and a list of zero-dollar contracts that specify terms but where no funds will be exchanged between Fresno Unified and other entities.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-23, DISCUSS and DECIDE in the Matter of the Aspen Ridge Public School Charter Petition

Aspen Public Schools, Inc. has delivered a petition to the district to operate a new charter, Aspen Ridge Public School, seeking authorization to operate July 01, 2021 through June 30, 2026. The charter proposes to open Fall 2021 with 200 students in grades seven through ten. The petition was received by the Charter Office on September 21, 2020 and a Public Hearing was held at the November 04, 2020 Board meeting.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, thirty-three submissions of public comment were received for Agenda Item B-23. They are as follows:

1. Emily Sterling

My name is Emily Sterling and my son Kaiden Baharloo attends Aspen Valley Prep and would love to see him be able to continue with Aspen after 8th grade. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school

through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

2. Viridiana Zamora

Me llamo Alicia ZR_. Me estoy refiriendo al tema B-23 en la agenda de la Mesa Directiva del FUSD. Estoy a favor de la nueva escuela 7-12, Aspen Ridge Public School. He sido padre de estudiantes en una escuela actual de Aspen (o personal de las escuelas actuales de Aspen) y quiero que mi estudiante continúe teniendo la opción de asistir a una escuela de Aspen hasta la escuela secundaria. Creo que los padres deben poder elegir qué escuela es mejor para sus estudiantes. Summit Learning ha ayudado a mi estudiante a crecer tanto social como académicamente. Creo que Aspen preparará a mi estudiante para la universidad y una carrera. ¡Por favor considere votar SÍ para aprobar la nueva constitución de las Escuelas Públicas de Aspen Ridge para el período completo de 5 años!

Translation

My name is Alicia ZR_. I am referring to item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in favor of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of students at a current Aspen school (or current Aspen schools staff) and I want my student to continue to have the option of attending an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should be able to choose which school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student grow both socially and academically. I believe Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public Schools constitution for the full 5-year period!

3. Briana Cox

My name is Briana Cox. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of Jonah Cox who is attending a current Aspen school and my other son Asher Cox will be attending when he is of school age, and I want my children to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my son to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student and every student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term! Our kids deserve to continue their awesome growth together!

4. Raul Trejo

My name is Raul Trejo. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I work at a current Aspen school, and I want students to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that we should have a choice about what school is best for students. Summit Learning has helped students to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare students for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

5. Chynna Raymond

My name is Chynna Raymond. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

6. Yessenia Silva

My name is_Yessenia Silva. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

7. Erwin Chitay

My name is Erwin Chitay. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

8. Mark and Iesha Howard

We are Mark and Iesha Howard. This message is addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. We currently have one child attending an Aspen school and another child expected to begin the same Aspen school for the 21/22 school year. We would like our children to not only be able to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school for the benefits of Summit Learning, but to also have the benefit of attending high school with kids who also attended Aspen schools pre-high school. Please vote in favor of the new high school.

9. Laura Drury

Hello FUSD Board Members,

My name is Laura Drury. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools (Aspen Valley Prep) and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. I have been the registrar here at the Valley Prep site for approximately 15 years. During that time I have had the opportunity to hear from many of our families and parents. They and their students love our school and are usually very worried once their 8th grade year is over, because they don't know where to attend High School. They have always expressed to our office staff... "When are you going to open a High School?" This has been the heart cry of parents for many years. They love the smaller learning environment and feel their children thrive in this atmosphere. Going to a large high school can be overwhelming for some students. They would love to have the opportunity to carry on their education through high school and graduate along with their peers. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

10. Patricia Morgutia

My name is Patricia Morgutia, I have been teaching in Fresno for 15 years. I am addressing the charter for Aspen Ridge Public School, B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I would like to show my support for the new 7-12 school. I have been on staff at one of Aspen's current schools and believe that it offers a quality educational experience for students. Aspen provides excellent social and emotional education and support for our students as well. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new charter for the full 5 year term.

11. Anai Gomez

My name is Anai Gomez. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

12. Maria Claudia Dominguez

My name is Maria claudia dominguez
I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge

13. Stephanie Pacheco

My son attends Aspen Meadow and is in the 5th grade; he's been there since the 4th grade. He initially attended school in Clovis. After speaking with administrative staff at Aspen, I knew I wanted him there. The kids are held accountable and provided with the tools necessary to make them exceptional leaders. The staff at Aspen pay attention to detail and are committed to our students success, both academically and personally/socially.

In my opinion, we need more schools committed to our students success in the way Aspen is. By allowing for a 7th-12th grade school, it would properly prepare our, then high school students for life in the real world. Aspen Ridge would equip them with the means necessary to lead by example and pave the way for others as they embark on their young adulthood endeavors.

By going to Aspen Meadow, our kids learn to believe in themselves; building their self-esteem and confidence. They learn different ways of

overcoming their obstacles and that anything is possible. Which allows them to set goals and take the necessary steps to achieve them. We need a high school that invests in our kids the way Aspen does.

I look forward to my son being a graduate of Aspen Ridge.

14. Janal Sandoval

My son started at aspen in kinder and they have by far been great to my boy I worry that by the time he gets into 7th grade he will have to transfer to a public school I cant say enough how wonderful things about this school their program and staff I hope you will allow this school to be granted a middle and highschool to keep the continued education going for these children

15. Scott Bergstrom

Good afternoon FUSD Board/Fresno education advocates,
My name is Scott Bergstrom. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been an employee of Aspen for 8 years now and fully believe in the quality education and social emotional experience that we offer our students. Josh Hodges and his leadership team are a phenomenal group of passionate experts that are ready for this opportunity. I hope that my son, now in Kindergarten, can have the opportunity to be an Aspen student through high school.

Please consider voting yes to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year team! Thank you for everything you do for our city,
Scott Bergstrom

16. Lisa Taylor

Hello,
My name is Lisa Taylor. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

17. Michelle Rogers

My name is Michelle Rogers. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been on staff at Aspen Valley Prep and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I

support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term! Thank you for considering this option for our community.

18. Ua Lugo

My name is Ua Lugo a parent of a child who currently attends Aspen Meadow. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Middle School. I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please vote YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

19. Eleanor Speakes

My name is Eleanor Speakes. My son, Cristian Speakes has attended Aspen Meadow School for the past four years, and is currently in forth grade. I am writing in support of approving Aspen Ridge Charter School.

I am very satisfied with the quality and fervor of education my child is getting, including his current distance learning during the Covid pandemic. The school was well prepared with tablets, hotspots, on-line curriculum, a breakfast/lunch program, and even a virtual after- school program to keep my child engaged academically, technologically, socially, and nutritionally. They also offer mental health, art, PE, music, and community resources to help meet the diverse needs of all students. It is also nice to have our resident law enforcement officers on campus to ensure safety, especially since the school is in a low-income, high crime area. Since the school purchased the campus, major funds have been used to improve the campus facilities (new roof, fence, paint, computers, and too much more to mention).

Aspen staff are a relatively small, but tight group of very caring, supportive, proactive, and collaborative group of professionals. Kids and families are known personally, more than just by name. The Aspen team is willing to go that extra length to work with students and families. We have also experienced first-hand the “village-type” embrace Aspen teachers, administrators, and community use to ensure all children receive necessary supports, resources, and tools to succeed.

And if they don't have the specialized service or equipment, they will allocate funds, or **(250- word limit reached)**.

20. Steven Gomez

My name is Steven Gomez. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of a 6th student(s) at a current Aspen school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

21. Twilla Maldonado

My name is Twilla Maldonado. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am a parent of a student at Aspen Meadow school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

22. Shelly Coleman

Hello! My name is Shelly Coleman, and I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of a student at Aspen Valley Prep Academy for five years. My son is currently a 7th grader. I very much want my child to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I strongly believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their children, and I believe continuity of education is important. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically, and Aspen Valley Prep has played a key role in developing his budding leadership skills and interest in civic duty and service. I believe that Aspen Ridge is the best option to prepare my student for college, career, and future leadership in both his job and city. The stellar reputation of both current Aspen schools speaks for itself. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full five-year term. Thank you for your consideration.

23. Hilary Witts

In 2016, Aspen Valley Prep, started Summit Learning with two first year teachers and two provisional intern teachers to 77 students. Our first year, we saw an 11% increase in Math and 10% increase in ELA on the SBAC.

In my fourteen years of teaching, I had never seen a curriculum or program make that big of a gain in a single year. Since then, Aspen Valley Prep's, SBAC scores from last year beat the state scores in ELA in 6th-8th grade, and Math in 6th and 7th grades. Data you can see within our petition.

I've also seen this program support the teachers with incredible professional developments, resources, lesson plans, and workshops to take any teaching practice to the next level.

The Summit Learning program offers any year teacher the ability to engage their students in deep meaningful ways, both academically and to help develop the 16 lifelong habits of success - some of which are attachment, self-regulation, stress management, growth mindset, relationship skills, self-efficacy to name a few..

Our students are thriving with Summit Learning and even when they currently leave us to go to the high school of their choice, they are still using the skills they learned with us and quickly stand out amongst their high school peers. We know the Summit Learning program works in preparing our students for the 21st century and we will continue to offer it at all our schools in the future so that we can transform our community by developing exceptional **(250-word limit reached)**.

24. Maria Arellano

My name is Maria Arellano. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

25. Kristin Green

My name is Kristin Green. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School.

I have been on staff at one of the current Aspen Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

26. Sarah Crantz

My name is Sarah Crantz. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am on staff at both of the current Aspen Schools in my role as Director of Special Education. Our schools are dedicated to providing high quality education and desire to continue our work with our families through grade 12. Our students who receive special education services thrive in our schools and receive services that empower them to reach their potential. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term.

27. Priscilla Robbins

My name is Priscilla Robbins. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am a member of the Board for Aspen Public Schools and I believe in the quality educational and social emotional experience that Aspen offers students. I support the opportunity for students to have the option to attend an Aspen Public School through high school. My relation to Aspen Charter Schools started prior to becoming a Board member. As Director of Rescue the Children with Fresno Mission I have seen firsthand the impact the teachers and staff have on the families at Rescue the Children. They support the families not only in academics but take steps to understand the families background to support their emotional needs. I have seen children who do not want to attend school change their outlook and enjoy attending. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

28. Johana Perez

My name is Johana Perez. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen Meadow school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

29. Debbie Sawyer

I'm addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board Agenda. At Aspen teachers are close. We have to be. Too many of my friends have been treated so bad by the admin over the years. It breaks my heart but this year my friend was targeted for speaking up in concern. She's so nice and I know she wouldn't be rude to anyone. She was targeted and it's not fair. They said a parent complained about her but wouldn't give her any details. She had no way to defend herself because she didn't know why she was getting a write-up. We have seen so many teachers fired so fast. We are scared. She knew she was next to get fired so she quit. There's no union. Admin tell us not to meet with each other, to come to them with concerns but we really can't. Now admin says we're only allowed to get one letter of recommendation, from Shelly. It's policy now. Just one? How can we get another job with only one letter? I don't get it. It's like teachers are hostages. I'm upset and I can't stay quiet.

30. Cherida D'Souza

My name is Cherida D'Souza. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am the parent of student at a current Aspen school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

31. Vicelin D'Souza

My name is Vicelin D'Souza. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School. I am the parent of student at a current Aspen school, and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

32. Oscar Gaxiola

My name is Oscar Gaxiola. I am addressing item B-23 on the FUSD Board agenda. I am in support of the new 7-12 school, Aspen Ridge Public School.

I have been a parent of student(s) at a current Aspen school, (or staff at current Aspen Schools) and I want my student to continue to have the option to attend an Aspen school through high school. I believe that parents should have a choice about what school is best for their students. Summit Learning has helped my student to grow both socially and academically. I believe that Aspen will prepare my student for college and a career. Please consider voting YES to approve the new Aspen Ridge Public School charter for the full 5 year term!

33. Joseph Merrick

Good evening,

Even as of January 12 Aspen touts on its [greatschools.org](https://www.greatschools.org) page that “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, The Leader in Me is used as a core of [its] character education program” although organization leaders confided in teachers that they were going to save \$10,000 by not renewing their usage license this academic year (2020-21) forward. The last time Mr. Hodges addressed you, the Board, he included The 7 Habits as a major social emotional component of Aspen Ridge when, in fact, it had already been jettisoned from the organization. We are not legally permitted to use the materials or teachings without an active license. Lying about its legal implementation, falsely advertising its usage, and misleading the Board would be clear ethical transgressions the Board should use as concrete insight regarding the ethically compromised underpinnings of Aspen Public Schools.

The organization seems to be cutting corners in another important aspect as well. The principals of both Aspen schools have had several years to gain the necessary professional training in the form of graduate degrees and especially administrative credentials. As currently understood, the two leaders, Ms. Rivera and Mrs. Taylor, as well as Mr. Hodges, have not even begun to pursue their credentials, nor do they hold even preliminary credentials. This blatant disregard for minimal standards—not to mention high standards—should also serve as a clear harbinger of Aspen’s looming downfall. They don’t take their position seriously. And despite the copy-paste testimonials you’re likely to receive from **(250- word limit reached)**.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-23. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to the Superintendent’s recommendation. Requested clarity on fiscal impact and how fiscal impact is calculated. Requested clarity as to what would distinguish Aspen from other schools. Commented on the district’s strict scrutiny on this petition. Commented on Aspen’s track record.

For the record, at this time during the Board discussion Board Member Mills motioned to approve the Aspen Ridge Public School Charter Petition for 5-years, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas.

For the record, Board Members continued comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-23. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to if the Board approved the petition for more than two years if at the two-year mark staff would have the opportunity to review the program with Aspen for any areas of concern.

For the record, at this time during the Board discussion, Board Member Islas asked Board Member Mills if she would amend her motion to approve the Aspen petition for a two-year term. A summary of response is as follows: Board Member Mills declined to amend due to high school being a four-year program and would not want students to be left hanging if the program shut down after two-years. Shared she feels this petition has faced stricter scrutiny than other petitions. Would agree to amend to a four-year term but no less.

For the record, Board Members continued comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-23. A summary is as follows: Commented there is a waiting list that could help with enrollment. Requested clarity regarding new Charter School Laws for California. Requested from staff an in-depth reasoning for their recommendation of a two-year term. Superintendent Dr. Nelson, Interim Chief Financial Officer, Santino Danisi, Instructional Superintendent, Carlos Castillo, Legal Counsel, Susan Hatmaker, and staff from Aspen where available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Mills, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas, Agenda Item B-23 was approved for a four-year term by a roll call vote of 5-2-0-0, as follow: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Major Slatic, and Thomas. NOES: Board Member Islas and Board President Davis.

B-24, DISCUSS and DECIDE in the Matter of the Golden Charter Academy Charter Petition

Golden Charter Academy, a California non-profit public benefit corporation, has delivered a petition to the district to operate a new charter, Golden Charter Academy, seeking authorization to operate July 01, 2021 through June 30, 2026. The charter proposes to open Fall 2021 with 198 students in grades transitional kindergarten through third. The petition was received by the Charter Office on October 23, 2020 and a Public Hearing was held at the December 09, 2020 Board meeting.

For the record, Board Clerk Thomas read a statement as follows:

Item B-24 on tonight's agenda is the decision in the Matter of Golden Charter Academy's petition. As I stated in the Board Meeting on December 09, 2020, I am a founding member of the Golden Charter Academy and I serve in an unpaid capacity as the Vice-President of Golden Charter Academy's Board of Directors. The CEO and President of Golden Charter Academy is my son-in-law, Robert Golden. Because Golden Charter Academy is a 501C3 non-profit corporation I am a non-compensated officer. I do not have any financial interest in Golden Charter Academy or the petition; however, as a Golden Charter Academy founder and Vice-President I have a personal interest in this matter. Therefore, consistent with Board Bylaw 9270 and out of the abundance of caution, I am recusing myself to avoid any appearance of impropriety. In addition, because item B-24 is listed in the conference/discussion section on the agenda, Board Bylaw 9270 requires that I leave the meeting room until the Board has discussed this matter and made its decision in the Matter of the Golden Charter Academy petition.

For the record, Board Clerk Thomas left the meeting during discussion of Agenda Item B-24.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, two submissions of public comment were received for Agenda Item B-24. They are as follows:

1. Carrie Lorraine Ayala

My name is Carrie Lorraine Ayala, my pronouns are she / they, and I live in the Fresno High area. I have deep concerns about the "In The Public Interest" analysis of the proposed Golden Charter Academy. There appear to be a number of serious problems that could put the community and district in legal and financial trouble. I urge the district to pull the vote until further analysis can be done. Thank you.

2. Clare Crawford

GCA's petition has numerous deficiencies and does not meet the basic requirements for a charter petition. This petition should be denied based on 5 of the 8 legal bases for denial. The school does not include a principal for its first three years, while funding a CEO without teaching experience, resulting in an unsound educational program.

GCA is unlikely to successfully implement their program due to major budget issues. A quarter of the budget is in a single line item, without any detail as to what is included and whether the costs are reasonable. The budget allocates 0% for CalPERS - an annual gap of between \$65,000 in year one and \$134,000 by year five. Staff did not evaluate GCA's enrollment projections, which are unrealistic based on trends in existing local charters, resulting in lower revenue than projected.

The petition and staff report reveal serious conflicts of interest. GCA plans to enter into two significant financial transactions with the CEO, Robert Golden. This conflict is compounded by the participation on the GCA Board of Mr. Golden's mother-in-law, an FUSD Board member.

The school will have an undeniable fiscal and community impact on FUSD's highest-needs students, a concern the staff does not address. GCA's petition does not include the required number of signatures. GCA was unable to write an appropriate admissions policy and was provided one by FUSD's charter review team, an inappropriate role for FUSD staff. GCAs' petition has serious problems with budget, governance and staffing and should be denied.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-24. A summary is as follows: Expressed appreciation for Mr. Golden's novel concept for education. Shared a concern that Mr. Golden did not have a credential nor does leadership at the site. Expressed concern it did not appear the program was financially feasible. Shared concern of school meeting enrollment projections. Commented CalPERS was not listed in the financial statement. Shared concern pertaining to teacher signatures.

For the record, Member Mills made a motion to deny the Golden Charter Academy Charter petition to allow Golden Charter Academy the opportunity to correct petition deficiencies and then return for approval. Board Member Islas seconded the motion.

For the record Board Members continued their comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-24. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to the required number of signatures. Requested clarity pertaining to a name that has no signature attached. Expressed admiration for Golden Charter Academy's mission and commended Mr. Robert Golden. Shared same concerns mentioned by fellow Board Members. Expressed concern for community impact analysis. Requested clarity as to the lease agreement. Interim Chief Financial Officer, Santino Danisi, Instructional Superintendent, Carlos Castillo, Legal Counsel Susan Hatmaker, and Legal Counsel Marybeth de Goede were available to provide clarity

For the record, Robert Golden and Board Members agreed to a 30-day extension of the petition to allow opportunity for requested information to be provided. Discuss and Decide in the Matter of the Golden Charter Academy will return to a future board agenda.

For the record, Board Member Mills withdrew her motion and Board Member Islas withdrew her second.

B-25, ~~OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION of the 2020-2021 Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and California School Employees Association and its Fresno Chapter 143~~ ITEM PULLED FROM AGENDA BY STAFF

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, no public comments were received for Agenda Item B-25.

B-26, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2019/20 Bond Annual Report

The 2019/20 Bond Annual Report was included in the Board binders and was presented on behalf of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC).

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment

For the record, no public comments were received for Agenda Item B-26.

For the record, Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-26. A summary is as follows: Thanked the committee members for their service. Requested clarity regarding boundary projections and requested information on the larger conversation about feeder patterns and school boundaries. Chief of Operations, Karin Temple was available to provide clarity.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

The Board was in receipt of item C-27.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:37 p.m.