



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**  
**March 10, 2021**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 Paragraph 3, the March 10, 2021 Board of Education Regular 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 March 10, 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 five.

The Board RECONVENED in Open Session at 6:45 p.m.

### Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Mills, the Board took action in Closed Session for the release/reassignment of a vice principal to be placed in the classroom for the 2021/22 school year, employee I.D. 1015485, on a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mill, Thomas, and Board President Davis. NOES: Board Member Major Slatic.
- On a motion by Board Member Mills, seconded by Board Member Islas, the Board took action in Closed Session for the release/reassignment of a manager II to be placed in the classroom for the 2021/22 school year, employee I.D. 1061802, on a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mill, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

## **Reporting Out of Closed Session – continued**

- On a motion by Board Member Mills, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation claim for Maria Diaz v. Fresno Unified Worker's Compensation Fresno Unified Case No. 2018-0332, on a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.
- On a motion by Board Member Mills, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to ratify the placement of an employee on a compulsory leave of absence, employee I.D. 1034362, on a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ASBSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.
- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Islas, the Board took action in Closed Session for the lateral move of Valerie Rivas Martinez to Principal III on Special Assignment on a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.
- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session for the promotion of Mao Misty Her to the position of Deputy Superintendent, on a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

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

The Board heard a report from Elyette Morales, Student Advisory Board representative from Design Science High School, and students from Bullard TALENT Middle School.

## **HEAR Report from Superintendent**

- Shared we are thrilled to be reopening our campuses to in-person instruction when we reach the red tier, with a projected start date on Tuesday, April 6, when we return from our scheduled spring break recess.
- Shared parents need to fill out the Parent Selection Form for each of their Fresno Unified students before the deadline of Tuesday, March 16, by 11:59 p.m. If you have any trouble filling out the quick form online and need assistance, please call us during regular business hours at 457-3912.

## **HEAR Report from Superintendent - continued**

- Shared we are phasing in the return to campus over two weeks, with child care centers, TK, pre-k through 2nd grade, 7th grade, 9th grade, and 12th grade returning on Tuesday, April 6, and all other grades returning to campus on Tuesday, April 13.
- Shared all students and staff will be required to wear masks and practice physical distancing. There will continue to be increased times for handwashing and disinfecting in the classroom. All students, staff, and visitors must complete our self-health screening every day BEFORE coming to a Fresno Unified site. We will also offer voluntary COVID-19 surveillance testing to staff and students, and we will share more information directly with families on that matter as it rolls out at our schools. Also, if your student has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, we will need a doctor's note provided to the school so we can work to accommodate.
- Thanked staff who have started their process of getting vaccinated and those that participated in our COVID-19 surveillance testing last Friday! Both opportunities are voluntary. We need to support volunteers such as yourself to ensure we get our community vaccinated and ensure we can reach our county health requirements of surveillance testing at least 10% of our in-person staff twice per month.
- Highlighted student work in the arts for creating our REAL Gallery! The arts are critical to our students' learning journeys, and distance learning has not made that engagement easy. A video was shown highlighting the fantastic student art projects.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

**Board Member Jonasson Rosas:** Requested more information pertaining to boundary adjustments and asked if a conversation has started, would like to be included in the discussion.

**Board Member Cazares:** Requested additional investments be made into communications to both families and staff that include clear messaging pertaining to returning to the classroom.

**Board Clerk Thomas:** Thanked GO Fresno for invitation to their listening meeting. Thanked those that are working on the expansion of dual enrollment. Thanked principals for their continued hard work. Thanked Lindsay Sanders and the Equity and Access team for their work with the focus groups. Shared a heartfelt congratulations to Misty Her for her promotion to Deputy Superintendent and expressed how proud she is to be living in this historic moment.

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION - continued**

**Board Member Islas:** Recognized Ms. Warren at Yosemite. Acknowledge women in the district. Encouraged people to get vaccinated and to practice good public health. Shared concern regarding language access to the Dual Enrollment Workshop. Commented the last board meeting was difficult for the Board and expressed hope that members will learn from experience and move forward.

**Board President Davis:** Thanked Superintendent for the back to school message. Requested staff to follow through on language access to families.

### **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 Cazares, seconded by Board Member Islas, the Consent Agenda with the exception of items A-2, A-3, A-10, A-11, and A-12 which were pulled by the Board for further discussion, was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

### **A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

#### **A-2, ADOPT Resolution Proclaiming March 2021 Women's History Month**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, a resolution proclaiming March 2021 as Women's History Month.

On a motion by Board Clerk Thomas, seconded by Board Member Islas, Agenda Item A-2 was adopted by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

#### **A-3, ADOPT Resolution Proclaiming Support for the Proposed Development of the Southeast Fresno Regional Soccer Park and Complex and Afterschool Programs by the Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association, Inc.**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, a proposed resolution proclaiming support for the proposed development of the Southeast Fresno Regional Soccer Park and Complex and Afterschool Programs by the Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association, Inc. (SEFCEDA).

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

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

- A-4, APPROVE Minutes from Prior Meeting**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes from the February 03, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.
- A-5, APPROVE Renewal Agreement with Marsh & McLennan Agency**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, a renewal service agreement with Marsh & McLennan Agency for the provision of insurance consulting and brokerage services.
- A-6, APPROVE Award of Bid 21-17, Sub-Rings for Wide Area Network Services**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 21-17, to establish fixed lease pricing for logical sub-rings within the wide area network connecting 62 school sites to the Fresno Unified Education Center.
- A-7, APPROVE Award of Bid 21-18, Internet Service Provider**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 21-18, to establish a 5-year contract for internet service to provide a connection between the internet and the district via the Education Center.
- A-8, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals 21-19, Network Equipment for Internal Connections**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Request for Proposals (RFP) 21-19, to replace and/or upgrade network equipment across school sites and facilities. The equipment to be purchased will maintain operation of essential network services for a short duration during power outages and will keep telecommunications systems current including voice routers and gateways.
- A-9, APPROVE Award of Bid 21-31, Irrigation Supplies**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, information on Bid 21-31, Irrigation Supplies, to establish fixed pricing for the purchase of irrigation supplies to replenish maintenance stock throughout the year as needed. The agreement is for a three-year term.
- A-10, RATIFY Grant Application to the California Department of Education for the Homeless Children and Youth Grant Program**  
**RATIFIED as recommended**, a grant application to the California Department of Education for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grant program.

**A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board President Davis, Agenda Item A-10 was ratified by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

**A-11, RATIFY Grant Application to the United States Department of Agriculture – Farm to School Grant Program**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, a grant application submitted by the Food Services Department to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Farm to School Grant Program.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas, Agenda Item A-11 was ratified by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

**A-12, RATIFY Grant Applications to the California Department of Food and Agriculture**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, grant applications to the California Department of Food and Agriculture through two separate programs: 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, to enhance the competitiveness of California specialty crops; and California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program, to support programs that promote innovation in nutrition education, sustainable production and procurement, and high-quality student experience.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, Agenda Item A-12 was ratified by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic.

**A-13, RATIFY Master Contract with Youth Care of Utah, Inc.**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, a Master Contract with Youth Care of Utah, Inc., for the placement of a student requiring non-public, nonsectarian school/agency services.

**A-14, RATIFY Change Orders for the Projects Listed Below**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on Change Orders for the following projects:

- Bid 20-11, Ericson Elementary School Early Learning Building Construction and Interim Housing Infrastructure  
Change Order 6 presented for ratification \$83,607

## **A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

- Bid 20-20, McLane High School Library Modernization Change Orders 3 and 4 presented for ratification \$59,171
- Bid 20-49, Juan Felipe Herrera New Elementary School Change Order 1 presented for ratification \$55,686
- Bid 21-07, McLane High School Fire Alarm Upgrade Change Order 1 presented for ratification \$61,825

### **A-15, RATIFY the Filing of a Notice of Completion**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, a Notice of Completion for the following project, which has been completed according to plans and specifications. Bid 20-48, Computech Middle School Parking Lot Improvements and Modular Classroom Infrastructure.

### **A-16, RATIFY Purchase Orders from December 01, 2020 through December 31, 2020**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from December 01, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

For the record, the Board received twenty-nine submissions of public comment for Unscheduled Oral Communications. They are as follows:

### **1. Carmen Zamora**

To whom it may concern,  
I would like to know why my public comment was not read at the board workshop meeting last night? I submitted my comment by the deadline. Please advise.  
Thank you,  
Carmen

For the record, the email Ms. Zamora mentions was found in the junk mail folder after the conclusion of the board workshop and therefore was not part of the public comments for the March 03, 2021 Board Workshop. We will include the comment in tonight's meeting.

GO Public Schools Fresno and our community network supports the expansion of Dual Enrollment programs, which are among our most effective at improving student achievement. For over a year now, GO has convened a group of parents to examine issues related to Dual Enrollment, and have already spoken with a number of you about our work.

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

While we agree with much of what is in tonight's presentation, two goals should be added to the ones named:

- As Dual Enrollment programs expand, the district must regularly review the demographics of participating students. Tonight's presentation includes participation breakdowns by ethnicity, which is promising. We believe that FUSD should set an explicit goal of ensuring that participation in dual enrollment courses reflects the diversity of Fresno Unified's students – including racial and socioeconomic diversity – and that this goal should be a guiding factor in the Board's decisions about where and how to expand Dual Enrollment.
- FUSD must provide more information to families about Dual Enrollment programs. GO Family Leaders have experienced difficulty in accessing information about the availability of these programs and how to enroll their students. To ensure that students have equitable access to Dual Enrollment programming, FUSD must improve the quality of the information available to families regarding Dual Enrollment and ensure that such information is available in multiple languages.

Expanding Dual Enrollment programs is the right direction for Fresno Unified, but if not done thoughtfully, students and families who most need these programs will – yet again – be left behind.

In Community,

### **2. Tom Marsella**

I support retaining the FHS Warrior logo and images. If there are any changes to be made at FHS it should only be by a majority vote of any FHS alum via e-mail, not including elected officials or employed staff. Alumni only. And if such change is approved, such entity will be responsible for paying the estimated \$400,000 costs themselves. We thank the current FHS ALUMNI committee for their time and now recommend starting with a newly elected board via normal election protocol by e-mail. I authorize Ryan Griffith to speak on my behalf in this endeavor as he or his representatives deem necessary. Truly, TOM MARSELLA, Class of 1958

### **3. Katie Jerkovich**

To whom it may concern

Please reopen Fresno area high schools for the sake of our kids. They are struggling and have been ready to go back since August. The distance learning doesn't work for our kids. I have one that has an IEP and desperately needs to be back in an in person setting as this screen time education is horrible for her and she's so frustrated, it breaks my heart. For a while in the fall, I was paying for a tutor for her in math, but can't afford it any longer, so she continues to struggle. I have another who is getting by but misses science and robotics and was supposed to go to state to compete in Science Olympiad after taking first place in every category and hasn't been able to participate since. My third that has lost



## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

her entire senior year. No football games with friends, no dances, no theater productions, nothing. This is such a travesty and makes no sense when we see other cities and states who went back to school. We need our kids back in school. They miss sports, they miss being part of a team and more importantly they aren't getting an education. They are going to be behind their peers who did go back to school. Why would you keep doing this to our children? So many friends have pulled their kids, they are done. I sit here and keep fighting and plea but admit I'm about ready to **(250-word limit reached)**

### **4. Grace Jerkovich**

My name is grace Jerkovich I'm a 9th grader at Roosevelt high school I had hoped school could start back up in August and to become a high schooler on campus, but in August school did not reopen I was put in distance learning which was very challenging. By September I was failing in math class. My teacher didn't seem to understand how much I was struggling. I started to go down in my mental health. By the beginning of October, I was starting to feel alone. I would say was fine but I really wasn't. It's easy to hide on a screen. I had no one interacting with. I was struggling in all my class to keep up. In the middle of October, I thought about ending it all I thought that it would be better if I just ended it. I didn't do it, but I did tell my parents two weeks later. When I told them, they were so supportive. It was December I just kept telling my family I didn't want to do this I wanted to drop out I didn't care anymore. I had hoped that schools were gonna open back up in January yet it hasn't happened yet. There wasn't much to look forward to and then sport started back up 3 weeks ago and it's been helping my mental help. if sports are back that gives me hope that school could be back soon. Please open school for all grades!

### **5. Cecilia Patino Funk**

FUSD Trustees-

Your vote on December 9, 2020 to remove the Fresno High School Warrior native image was a travesty.

FUSD followed a "play book". As described by NAGA (Native American Guardians Association), the following takes place: At the public-school level, the play book has been to find a student or alum to start a petition demanding a name change. The far-left leaning Center for American Progress has been very active in this coordinated campaign. The play book extends to having someone claiming to have been "bullied" as a result of the school's Native theme after decades of no such instances. Most often the offended party is recruited by the change activists. Finally, the play book includes someone claiming to have been the victim of some racial slur, usually at a school board meeting. Of course, it is impossible to prove a negative, but the truth does not matter.

The claiming of "offense" is the weapon used to gain power, and it is the power to destroy. However, offense is a two-way street, and many in the Native American

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

community as well as many in these school communities alike are truly offended by the modern-day Indian Removal campaign systematically playing out, resulting in an effective cultural genocide

We all share the responsibility to “Educate Not Eradicate” as the historical significance of Native Americans is incredibly important. Rescind your decision. Otherwise, a stakeholder referendum that includes a fair and honest legitimate debate is needed .

Cecilia Patino Funk

FHS Class of **(250-word limit reached)**

### **6. Sue Hague**

FUSD BOARD:

I am disgusted that the Board voted 7-1 to remove Iroquois symbols throughout the FHS campus. This is what the Board in its wisdom has deemed the most important thing to do during a pandemic—remove images that have been around inoffensively for nearly 130 years?? REALLY?

Did you think that you could quietly do this and no one would notice—that there would be no backlash, no outcry?

We have FUSD kids with no computers — and yet your PRIMARY concern is removing ‘offensive’ racial images? To add insult to injury, you are now telling us that we (the taxpayers) get to PAY to remove these same said ‘offensive’ images’ from across the campus! Where, pray tell, is the money coming from to remove these images? Clearly, you must view the Fresno voting public as Daddy Warbucks with VERY deep pockets!!

Instead of looking at how other school districts have gotten their kids back into schools, with their teachers. you have decided to focus on totally irrelevant issues. At a time when cowboys were glorified and N.A.s were known as ‘savages,’ OUR school courageously selected a noble, dignified profile of an Iroquois to represent us: a person who had gone through battles (witness the feathers are down, not up, so he has been tested in battle), and will be again (witness the war paint), someone who has seen suffering and is alive to tell the tale—THIS is who you wish to remove?

Sincerely,

Sue Hague, '73

### **7. Marissa Rodriguez sent on behalf of Mikah Barron**

I’m currently a 7th grader who has been greatly affected by the virtual learning situation. During virtual learning, I’ve been affected mentally, physically, and emotionally, along with so many other kids in this district. Grades have always been important to me. Every school year I’ve pretty much maintained A’s and B’s. But this school year my grades have been terrible. This has really affected my mental health because, I started doubting myself and feeling as if I wasn’t smart enough. Even though I know that I am capable of a lot. Honestly, in the very

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

beginning of virtual learning, I was doing well on keeping up with my school work. However, as soon as we got to late September or early October, I started failing and I wasn't able to keep up with my assignments. Unfortunately, that's where my mental health went down tremendously. Around Thanksgiving break, one of my teachers said we might be back in school by January. Clearly we are now in March and still not back yet. As I've mentioned, I've been affected academically but I've also been affected mentally and emotionally during virtual learning. I've lost pretty much all my friends. That affected me in various ways because, I started feeling alone. Please realize, that us kids deserve to be around other children our ages and to have interaction with one another. Whether it's a second grader or a senior in high school, we don't deserve to spend our lives like this. School should never  
**(250-word limit reached)**

### **8. Joann Woodward**

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter comes to you in support of maintaining the Warrior emblem/image at Fresno High School and reversing the decision made by the Board on December 9, 2020 on agenda item B-17.

Asking for the removal of the Warrior image from Fresno High came about from an online petition without considering the impact it would have on the Fresno community and the 130 year standing traditions of Fresno High. I am hoping the decisions made on December 9, 2020 will be reevaluated with a decision to maintain all Warrior images, mascots or emblems.

JoAnn Woodward

Cc: Ryan Griffith, ESQ

### **9. Garilee D. Cave**

Dear Board Members and Dr Nelson

I graduated from FHS in 1958. I have always been a proud Warrior and attended every function that I could since my graduation. I have very fond memories of my days as a FHS student and the many functions that included whoever wore the Warrior Bonnet of feathers. I always wished I could be one of those, representing our school and marching in front of the band at various functions.

Tradition and memories are a great part of our Nation's heritage. The meaning of Heritage is "a person's unique, inherited sense of family identity: the values, traditions, culture, and artifacts handed down by previous generations".

We, our Nation, have had so many of our revered artifacts destroyed or defaced in the last few years. Please allow our school mascot to remain as something we can show our children, grandchildren, and their children to be proud of. Don't allow the few, once again, to be the destroyers of something unique and traditional. Our Warrior mascot is our "Heritage".

Garilee D Cave, California Senior Legislator (retired), 633 Ramona Ave #23  
Los Osos, CA 93402, 805-801-4103

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

### **10. Dr. Jerold Sorensen**

I object to the removal of the Warrior Mascot Logo from the FHS public arena. There was no public nor private notice of this action as required by the Brown Act. I was not notified of the proposed agenda.

This is being hushed thru by a small minority political action group that does not represent the majority of the class members nor does it have the financial resources to cover the exorbitant cost imposed on the public funds and thus should not stand.

I request judicial relief in Fresno County Superior Court pursuant to California Government Code § 54960.1(b)(2).  
Dr. Jerold Sorensen Class '58

### **11. Dr. M. Wayne Alexander**

To Board Members of FUSD:

This is to urge you to vote against and not support the change of Fresno High School's mascot. The Warrior emblem and mascot does not demean Native American people. It does not need to be changed.

Note that I attended Fresno High School and graduated in 1958.

Yours,

Dr. M. Wayne Alexander  
5641. 170th Ave North  
Georgetown, MN. 56546  
701 371 7486

### **12. John Richert**

Dr. Nelson,

I am an alumnus of Fresno High School, Class of 1958. I find it disturbing that the School Board has chosen to cancel the logo for the Fresno High School mascot. The Warrior logo has a long history (1919-1983 for my immediate family alone) representing our High School at all manner of competitions throughout California and elsewhere. If alumni were raising voice to cancel the logo on the basis of having been hurt I would be the first to listen. However, cancellation of cherished traditions is hurtful for those who graduated from this institution and must also be given consideration. I fear that much of the input in favor of the cancellation which you received previously was internet "crowd sourced" and came from people who have never set foot in Fresno, let alone attended our beloved Fresno High School. I am hopeful you will include this message as Public Comment in your Board meeting on Wednesday, March 10th and reconsider this matter by adding it to the School Board Agenda again soon.

Sincerely,

John D. Richert

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

### **13. Beckett Zavorek**

To whom may concern,

My name is Beckett Zavorek. i am a freshman at Bullard High School. I am being affected every day by this stay at home order for school. However and I'm very thankful that we are able to practice for baseball now, but I feel I am not getting a true learning experience while learning from home. I do not want to have to transfer to another school because my school district will not go to school. And with me going to Stanford in 3 and a half years I need to have a full high school learning experience.

### **14. Kay Bertken**

The League of Women Voters was organized one hundred years ago to train newly enfranchised voters to be informed participants in our democracy. Public schooling began with the same focus. Our local League commends Fresno Unified and you Trustees for encouraging student board membership, youth presentations at board meetings, and the Student Voice Collaborative. All students need to experience civic engagement like the lucky participants in these forums. But in recent years and across the country civics and government education have been marginalized. That must change. Sustaining a democracy requires engaged citizens, but young people are losing faith in our form of government.

Educating for American Democracy, funded by the Department of Education and The National Endowment for the Humanities, has recently released its roadmap for a national revival of K-12 history/government/civics education. It is not a curriculum, but a guide for rebuilding civic education. It provides a set of principles and questions that will lead students to understand and tolerate conflicting perspectives and debate contentious issues with evidence. The roadmap emphasizes developing skills in "civil disagreement, civic friendship and reflective patriotism."

A copy of the roadmap with access to teaching materials and resources has been sent to staff. I urge the Fresno Unified Board to make civic literacy a priority, to add the Roadmap or something like it to teacher trainings, and to revive the social studies offerings provided for our students. School districts need to graduate students who are prepared for citizenship.

### **15. James Tuck**

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to you regarding your decision to retire our 131 year old tradition and more specifically the manner in which it was removed.

Jamie Nelson the petitioner has yet to prove he is Native American and in fact even his friends state they thought he was Italian.

Mr Nelson began speaking at Fresno City counsel meetings about numerous issues and was later recruited to be the front man for this agenda. Furthermore, there is no documentation that he was offended by the Image until he came

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

forward. Even people that knew him well had no idea.

On your notices you stated there would be no economic cost in changing the image but now we see reports from \$400K to 1M.

Many of the people and organizations listed as endorsing the retirement have denied any knowledge of such endorsement which is clearly fraudulent.

Please rescind your votes then lets have a stakeholders referendum with a town hall for both sides to demonstrate the facts.

Instead of getting our kids back to school and increasing test scores you have chosen to retire 131 year old traditions waking a sleeping giant. Many of us are focused on doing whatever is necessary to retain our image including donating to an opponent that will reinstate our Image

educate not Eradicate,

Jim Tuck

Class of 1981

### **16. Russell Harrington**

Dear Board,

I graduated Fresno High with the class of 1982 as a proud Warrior! In me three years at Fresno High, I remember a sense of pride and devotion as a result of being a warrior.

Fast forward to now and the board of trustees has decided to side with a person of questionable stature and remove the image. Initially you touted there would be no cost involved, but we have since learned it will cost hundreds of thousand, potentially a million to complete your ill minded cancellation of a prestigious image. I find it appalling you feel FUSD can fund such a farce filled action, yet you can't figure out how to get the children back in classes for a successful learning path.

I implore you to rescind your vote, do the right thing. Do not cave to the "cancel culture" and eradication of history. Never in history has the removal of it won anything other than pain and suffering. As a 22 year veteran of the USAF, and veteran of multiple arm actions, I have seen the result of such tyranny first hand.

Do the right thing,

Sincerely,

Russell RED Harrington

### **17. Wendy Tibbet**

I am a proud Fresno High Warrior graduate of 1979. As was my mother Judy Ebert graduating class of 1956. (Who is rolling in her grave at this abhorrid action bring proposed!)

Participating as a Letter Girl and wearing the head dress made me feel empowered to be Warrior.

Nothing BUT School "Warrior spirit" was ALWAYS displayed in a responsible and respectful manor.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE OR REPLACE Our beloved Warrior mascot.

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

This letter comes with urgent heartfelt request to keep our Warrior mascot alive and ever present at Fresno High School!

Sincerely;

Wendy (Holbrook) Tibbet

### **18. Joan Minasian**

FUSD Trustees,

Your decision to remove the Fresno High School native American image on December 9, 2020 without engaging the wider community is unacceptable and I am calling for the Trustees to rescind this decision.

Those who firmly believe in keeping the image were bullied and restricted from participation from the very beginning starting with the first few calls. It became clear that the number of participants on these calls were limited s to 20 participants because of the “emotional response” from the alumni and the community. A response that emerged from being voiceless in the process. The limiting of participants was clearly put out on Facebook and the participants that did participate were heavy on the removal of the image.

As an example, prior to the November 12, 2020 town hall, I was able to listen in on one of the “20 member meetings” and was shocked on how openly skewed toward the removal of the image was by the facilitators and the staff. It was as if the decision had already been made. A few of the others on the call had the same experience.

With regards to the “community meeting” many alums and community members had a difficult time getting on the call. I specifically messaged the facilitator and stating the difficulty...with no results. In addition, I, along the majority of others could not see the comments from the community, rather, facilitators picked and chose comments to read...skewed toward the removal. During that meeting, it became obvious **(250-word limit reached)**

### **19. Kimberly Samarin**

Board Members,

I have 3 students, a Senior at Bullard, a Junior at Fresno Christian and a 6th grader at Baird. We moved our Junior because she could not emotionally or academically handle distance learning. We are fortunate that we have the means to give her what she needs, many deserving students and families do not. I am not here for my kids. You are well aware of the suffering of Seniors, and my 6th grader will start FCS next year. I am not here for my kids, because you have already lost them. I am here for the other kids. The ones that are being left behind, abused and isolated. The ones who truly will never recover from what has been stolen from them. I am here for the parents who have to choose between work and their kids, for the kids who will never again return to school after this year, for the ones that you and FUSD have shamefully robbed of their one chance at escaping poverty, a quality education. I am here for the mamas of the kids who have committed

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

suicide or are suffering from depression. Your leadership has awakened activists who will remember you at election time, that is a promise. It's time for you to do what the district has been incessantly teaching our kids to do for years; be critical thinkers, productive strugglers and upstanders. No more excuses! Nelson answers to you! GET IT DONE NOW!

Kim Samarin

### **20. JP**

Warriors Forever

After 131 years of a FHS tradition the unexpected happened. Some fellow who probably wants attention or publicity got a hair up his ear and pushed this situation to remove Warriors from FHS. Absolutely no racial factors were thought of , matter of fact it was in respect.

Warriors is a French word meaning competitor or fighter. Example: Anyone who fights for their life having cancer is a Warrior. Why did this happen 131 years after tradition began. "todays world of political mumbo jumbo".

We love the name Warriors and believe its time for the fUSD to grow up and use common sense. I could write a book on this but wont. James King Palmer Fresno High class of 58

### **21. Scott Steele**

Dear Members of the Fresno Unified School Board:

As a proud Fresno High School alumnus (1976), an inductee to the Athletic Wall of Champions, and a Wall of Champions committee, I was very disappointed in the Fresno Unified School Board's decision to get rid of the image of our Warrior. I was also disappointed in the manner that this decision was made with very little interest in hearing from both sides. It appears that the actions of the Board may have resulted in a possible Brown Act violation and an enormous financial cost to the district at a historically bad time. I have been on the other side of this type of argument as an administrator in the Clovis Unified School District. As the principal of the Weldon Elementary Warriors and the Clark Intermediate School Chieftains, I took the responsibility of depicting our mascot in a very proud and respectful manner very seriously. The on-line group opposing this move is over 600 members strong – imagine if we could work together to help the current FHS school community instead of arguing over a poorly planned and timed decision. Please rescind your actions regarding the Warrior image and reach out to all alumni to make a better decision.

Sincerely

Scott Steele

California League of Schools

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## UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued

### 22. Nicole Ice

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my concerns and give you some insight on both of my children that attend FUSD. First I will address my oldest, Kaden, who is a student at Manchester GATE. Kaden did not log onto the 30 minutes of instruction this last Monday morning because Sunday night, the reality that he was not allowed/asked to return to school for the Monday cohort hit him hard. His sister returned yesterday and our dinner table conversation Sunday night revolved around her excitement upon returning for the Monday cohort. I looked over at him and he was in tears. The tears flowed all evening and resulted in him not sleeping for most of the night. Why he was not selected to return? The unfairness of the situation in our household hit him all at once and I was left with no other explanation then, "I know buddy. Its not fair. Life isn't always fair." So much has been asked of ALL the children this last year. They are asked to understand what we, as adults simply do not understand. In speaking with his school VP and with his wonderful teacher, I came to understand that: A) Not all teachers will have small cohorts because it was voluntary and B) there was no guidance, NO guidelines issued from ANY of you, at the top of FUSD as to who should be asked to return. This was simply put on the teachers to decide IF they would "accept" a **(250-word limit reached)**

### 23. Gary Nakagawa

Dear Trustees,

I am deeply disappointed that after 131 proud years of displaying our proud FHS Warrior image your Board has decided to vote against keeping it. There are currently 617 alumni members that have joined our FB "Supporters For Retaining The FHS Warrior Native Image Group". These members are diverse in all races/ethnicity possible including many Native Americans as well. We have all proudly come together to join this wonderful cause to retain our image; too bad it's not yours as well. In addition, NAGA (Native American Guardian Association) has joined us to also preserve this Image. I also understand they sent you a letter of which there was no response. Shame on all of you! I believe what you've done is completely wrong. While we all have political and moral beliefs, it appears you have crossed that threshold line by bringing it from "home to work or school" where this does not belong. Political in the sense this was not done fairly and opening with all parties involved but looking to sway it in a certain outcome which you did. The Native Americans, Alumni and I do too, feel this is racist in every sense possible by eliminating them! They want to be remembered and we want to remember them! Please rescind your position and retain the FHS Warrior Image!  
Gary Nakagawa Class of 1971

### 24. Sharilyn Weber

Fresno Unified School District Trustees,

I am writing to ask you to rescind your votes to remove the 131 year Fresno High

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

Warrior mascot from the school that was taken on December 9, 2020. As an alumni and Fresno tax payer, I am appalled at the one sided process that seems to have taken place regarding this issue by the board. Where was the voice of the alumni in your decision? (I am not speaking of the Alumni Association that chose not to take a stand on the issue). I am asking that you use due process before removal of the native image from our beloved school and listen to the thousands of alumni who feel pride in our warrior image.

"Cancel Culture" activists appear to have gotten hold of the board and used tactics that are not new. This movement has taken over our current society where the activists are literally trying to erase our country's history. The image of the native Indian warrior is one that has shown to be prideful by a majority of alumni. To destroy that image throughout Fresno High is a travesty. My understanding is that the current plan of removal will cost approximately a half a million dollars that should be used to educate, not eradicate. Please rescind your votes and have a stockholders referendum to listen to both sides in this important matter.

Sharilyn Weber

Fresno High School Class of 1979

### **25. Brady Zavorek**

My name is Brady Zavorek and I am a senior at Bullard High School. I need to have some type of in person schedule because the at home learning thing isn't working for me. While my grades haven't slipped, the mental struggles it has caused are tough. I need to interact with other humans in person just like the millions of other kids in online learning. There are states that our completely taking away masks in their state and it feels like we haven't even tried to start making a plan in California. We can't keep living in fear of the coronavirus and we already have a vaccine for it.

Please open the schools back up I promise it is what every single student in California not just wants but needs!

### **26. Jack Cline**

This letter is to let you know how disappointed I was to hear that the FUSD Board of Trustees had voted to remove the "Warrior" Symbol from Fresno High School. I had previously sent a message to the Board members on November 12, 2020, regarding this subject. I received a response from one member.

I would like you to reconsider this action and I again encourage you to retain the Warrior name and symbol of Fresno High School.

I am an Alum of FHS, graduating in the Class of 1958; my sister and her husband graduated in the Class of 1959 and my father graduated from FHS in the Class of 1936.

As most of you know, the history of this school is, and has been shared through time, by many emblems, banners and plaques, representing the students and activities of this prestigious high school.

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

One of the special features of these, is the bronze plaque, representing each graduating class. Many of these display the symbol of the Warrior. These plaques were also set in place with a time capsule, for future generations to see the history of that time. I certainly hope that these plaques and capsules will not be removed or even worse, destroyed.

I am extremely proud to have had my design selected, by my classmates, for the bronze plaque for the Class of 1958; my design for the class jacket/sweater was selected as well. Each one had the symbol representing a warrior.

The use of the **(250-word limit reached)**

### **27. Lori Pastre'**

Dear Trustees:

The decision to remove the beloved FHS Warrior image is devastating. The impact of this decision negatively affects the Native American community, and the FHS alumni, who are, and always will be, proud Warriors that will fight to preserve justice. More importantly, this decision negatively impacts future generations who will never appreciate the value or cultural significance of Native Americans because you have chosen to eradicate them.

I am a proud Native American and FHS Warrior alumni. The Iroquois Warrior image was chosen many years ago to proudly represent the FHS student body and faculty; they wanted to be recognized as a united group that were proud, courageous, and brave. A group who stood firmly in their commitment to honor and protect, whose values have become deeply rooted in tradition and culture over the past 131 years. The Warrior was not chosen to dehumanize or disrespect Native Americans – that was not the intent or perception then, nor is it now. I am outraged at this decision, which is nothing less than cultural genocide and racism against Native Americans.

The eradication of the Warrior image includes a tremendous financial impact. The FHS students deserve better; use this money to improve their educational experience. Be respectful and do the right thing; allow for a referendum and evaluate this situation in a fair and honorable manner. Isn't that the example we want for our future leaders?

Educate not Eradicate!

Respectfully,

Lori Pastre'

Alumni, 1981

### **28. Sue Gong Lee**

Dear FUSD Board Trustees,

I would like to request that FUSD rescind the action that took place at the December 9th meeting regarding removing the Fresno High Warrior Native image. I am an alumni of Fresno High, graduating in 1971. I am proud to be a Fresno High Warrior. The Native image means strength, courage and perseverance to me and

## **UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - continued**

many of our alumni.

I worked in education for over 20 years and one of my philosophy is that school is a place where we educate and teach our students.

I believe that instead of removing the Warrior Native American image, keeping the image is a teachable moment for our students to learn history!!! Don't erase or destroy history, learn from it!!!

Nelson Mandela said and I quote, "The purpose of studying history is not to deride human action, nor to weep over it or to hate it, but to understand it. And hopefully then to learn from it as we contemplate our future."

History is not always kind, but we should educate our students about it by talking and teaching about it.

Please rescind your action, and use this time to educate not eradicate!!!

Sue Gong Lee

Fresno High Class of 1971

### **29. Kimi Smallen**

Dear FUSD,

I am writing today to respectfully request our children's return to fulltime in person learning. My kids as well as many other kids are suffering greatly. My 7th grade son, who has been an exceptional student throughout his entire school attendance, now has B's and C's. While this may seem average, it is certainly not normal for him. I have discussed with parents of at least 3 families whose children are not only doing worse academically, but also suffering with depression and loss of interest in school. All of which are abnormal for these children. School IS about learning, but as a community, we have discovered school is so much more. It is a place for making friends and interpersonal connections that will be with them throughout their lives. Please know how passionately our local families feel about the insufficiencies of distance learning on both an academic level and emotional level and we will continue to push for in person, fulltime learning until this goal is achieved.

Respectfully,

The Smallen Family

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

### **B-17, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2020/21 Second Interim Financial Report**

California school districts are required to approve interim financial reports twice each fiscal year. Fresno Unified School District's 2020/21 Second Interim Financial Report was presented for approval and reflected a positive certification of the district's financial condition. The report is based on the January 31, 2021 year-to-date revenue and expenditures as required by state law.

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

### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

For the record, the Board received zero submissions of public comment for Agenda Item B-17.

For the record Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-17. A summary is as follows: Requested allocation for Design Science to be carried forward to expand dual enrollment. Requested clarity as to if one-time funds could be used to bring down unfunded liability. Thanked Mr. Santino and staff for their work toward the district's positive certification. Interim Chief Financial Officer Santino Danisi was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Clerk Thomas, Agenda Item B-17 was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Mills, Thomas, and Board President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Major Slatic

### **B-18, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2021/22 Local Control and Accountability Plan Feedback**

Senate Bill (SB) 97 requires that "a governing board of a school district shall consult with teachers, principals, administrators, other school personnel, local bargaining units of the district, parents and pupils in developing the Local Control and Accountability Plan". Staff presented and discussed the input received from our stakeholders in preparation for 2021/22 budget discussions and development of the Local Control and Accountability Plan.

### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

For the record, the Board received zero submissions of public comment for Agenda Item B-18.

### **B-19, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2021/22 Strategic Budget Development**

The Board of Education has discussed the Governor's Proposed Budget and the potential impacts on Fresno Unified, as well as the strategic budget development process, at the following Board of Education meetings: January 20, 2021, February 17, 2021, and February 03, 2021. On March 10, 2021, staff and the Board continued budget development discussions.

### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment**

For the record, the Board received zero submissions of public comment for Agenda Item B-19.

For the record Board Members had comments/questions pertaining to Agenda Item B-19. A summary is as follows: Requested clarity as to if student mentors are paid and if there has been consideration towards expanding peer mentors.

Requested the district to look toward upgrading nurses' stations at sites.  
Requested clarity as to if new health clinics will support Telehealth services.

**C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**

The Board was in receipt of Agenda Item C-20.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 9:12 p.m.