



BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
4480 N. BRAWLEY AVENUE
NUTRITION SERVICES
FRESNO, CA 93722
board.fresnounified.org

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Fresno, California

August 14, 2024

Fresno Unified School District, Nutrition Services, 4480 N. Brawley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on August 14, 2024, there were present Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. Interim Superintendent Mao Misty Her was also present.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas arrived at 4:40.

Board President Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:32 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

Board President Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:07 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded, by Board Member Levine, the Board acted in closed session on a complaint appeal to accept the panel's recommendation and decision by sustaining the findings and conclusion regarding a complaint appeal, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.
- On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded, by Board Clerk Davis, the Board acted in closed session on a complaint appeal to accept the panel's recommendation and decision by sustaining the findings and conclusion regarding a complaint appeal, by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows:

AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Member Jonasson Rosas.

- On a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded, by Board Member Islas, the Board acted in closed session pursuant to Board Policy 1312.1 to accept the panel's recommendation and decision by sustaining the findings and conclusion regarding a complaint, by a vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Board President Wittrup. ABSENT: Board Clerk Davis.
- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board acted in closed session to approve a waiver of service of summons in the BKK Working Group et al. vs. 1700 Sante Fe Ltd. et al. case, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tami Lundberg led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Report from Interim Superintendent

- Good evening to all joining us here at our Nutrition Center while our board room is under renovation. I am SO EXCITED to kick off the 2024/2025 school year! This is my 31st year opening schools, and it is the most special one for me as I get to open schools as our Interim Superintendent for the first time.
- We are full steam ahead and clearly focused on just TWO goals this school year: improving student outcomes and achieving operational excellence. While our system does so many remarkable things, I believe that by centering our efforts on teaching and learning, as well as customer service, we can take our growth to new heights. Let us talk briefly about how these priorities will help us make a bigger impact.
- Our students are at the heart of everything we do. By enhancing student outcomes, we ensure that every child receives the best education possible. This means refining our curriculum, expanding support services, and making certain that all students, regardless of their background, have what they need to succeed.
- Operational excellence is the foundation that supports our educational mission. By optimizing our operations and enhancing our customer service, we create an environment where teachers can teach effectively, and students can learn efficiently. This involves managing our resources wisely, investing in the professional growth of our staff, and building stronger partnerships with families and the community.
- When we concentrate on these two priorities, we channel the energy of more than 10,000 staff members and the parents of nearly 70,000 students towards what truly matters. Together, we have the power to create meaningful change and make a lasting impact.

- Now let me share some important reminders and resources as we prepare for school to start on Monday, August 19th!
 - Starting the first week of school, every Tuesday during a full 5-day week will be an early release day. Please check your school's website for the exact times. After-school programs will begin immediately after early release on Tuesdays, and bus schedules will be adjusted accordingly. This early release time provides our teachers with the necessary space to plan, learn, and connect with families.
 - We need to all remember that EVERY DAY COUNTS! We are aiming for significant academic improvements over the next two years, and to achieve this, we need students in class every day. Please try to schedule appointments and vacations outside of school hours. Students should only stay home if they have a fever over 100 degrees, or if they've experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours. A cough or sniffles? Bring them to school!
 - Families, please note that our after-school programs will start on Tuesday, August 20th, and run every school day from dismissal until 6 p.m. Please call your child's school to learn more. Please plan for the first day of school as the after-school program will not be in place quite yet.
 - Kindergarteners and 7th graders have certain required immunizations they need to have BEFORE starting school. To help with that we have another immunization clinic this Saturday, August 17th at Tioga Middle School from 8am to 2:30pm. These immunizations are free for students who are uninsured or on MediCal.
 - Want to know what is for breakfast and lunch? You can find the menus on our website. Simply hover over the 'Families' button and select 'Meals.' Choose your school to see the menu for the next two weeks.
 - We need you to be connected families! We encourage you to download the ParentSquare app from the Apple or Google Play store to receive updates from the district, your school, and your teachers.
 - For our families speaking a language other than English, we have you covered. Staff and families, you can call our Family Connect Line any business day between 7am and 5pm to be quickly connected to an interpreter in the language of your choice.
 - As I mentioned earlier, we are committed to providing excellent customer service. Please use our 'Let's Talk' tool anytime, 24/7, by clicking the blue 'Contact Us' button on our website to share your thoughts, concerns, or questions. Someone will get back to you quickly.
 - Finally, please visit www.fresnounified.org for all the back-to-school information you need. You will find details on immunizations, bus and bell schedules, FAQs, and more.
- To wrap up, I want to share a quick video! We mean it when we say we cannot wait to have you back! See you on Monday!

BOARD/INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Board members had the opportunity for Board/Interim Superintendent communications. A summary is as follows:

Clerk Davis expressed gratitude to Parent University staff for the kickoff and backpack give-away, to Billy Chan and Michelle Anderson for facilitating and opening the Sunnyside Regional Literacy kickoff, and to the McLane Highlanders for hosting today's press conference. Member Davis expressed excitement for the start of the Farber Campus, and to seeing double-digit gains by students as the new school year progresses.

Member Islas thanked Parent University staff for the kickoff and underscored that no student or family was turned away regardless of the school district of attendance. Member Islas applauded the community-based partners that supported the Parent University event and are stepping up with their own unique backpack giveaways within Fresno Unified schools.

Member Islas shared that Norseman Elementary School will hold a Back-to-School Night on August 21 and the Fresno Airport District and the Assistance League of Fresno committed to giving 100 backpacks that evening. Member Islas thanked the Valley Christian Center and Hopeful Encounter that are stepping up to help giveaway backpacks and ice cream and Member Islas commented that this is what community looks like.

Member Cazares shared a welcome back to school to all parents, students, and teachers. Member Cazares shared reminders as follows: asked families to remind their children to wake up early this week and over the weekend to prepare for the first day of school on Monday, August 19, 2024; asked families to remind their children to please take off their earphones when walking to school as this will help keep them safe; asked drivers to slow down around schools; and, asked families to be cautious when dropping off or picking up students at school, don't rush through school zones, please slow down.

Member Cazares thanked all staff that provided their services over the summer and thanked fellow Board members that helped share paraprofessional hiring event information with others, and for coming together to help the Human Resources team. Member Cazares thanked Paul Idsvoog and Alex Belanger and the construction staff for their quick turnaround of work at the Hoover Administration building. Member Cazares thanked all high school staff that put in extra effort during the summer to help create a smooth transition back to school for all ninth through twelve grade students. Member Cazares thanked principal Martinez and the Duncan staff for helping to provide students with confidence when returning to school.

Member Cazares shared information regarding Back-to-School Nights and asked families to attend so they can meet their child's principal, teacher, and friends.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda items

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Islas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda item A-19, which was pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup.

ALL CONSENT Agenda items are considered routine by the Board of Education and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board member requests, in which event, the item(s) will be considered following approval of the Consent Agenda. Pulled Consent Agenda items will be considered for approval after the Conference/Discussion Agenda.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

A-1, APPROVE Personnel List

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

A-2, ADOPT Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Board

ADOPTED as recommended, the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the regular Board meeting on June 20, 2024.

A-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the June 20, 2024, Board of Education regular meeting.

A-4, APPROVE Retiree Contract for Olivia Dominguez

APPROVED as recommended, a Certificated Retiree Contract between Fresno Unified School District and Olivia Dominguez. Ms. Dominguez will provide individual and small group instructional support and interventions for Tier Two and Tier Three English Language Development (ELD) students. She will also be aiding students in preparing for the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC). Kirk Elementary expects ELD students to improve at least one grade level a year in reading, and be on track for reclassification, as a result of the services provided by Ms. Dominguez.

- A-5, APPROVE Certificated Retiree Contracts for Elementary Music**
APPROVED as recommended, Certificated Retiree Contracts for recent retirees to provide classroom music instruction as well as teach band and string ensembles. There are currently 3.5 Full Time Equivalent vacancies in elementary music. The contracts will cover music sections at the following elementary schools: Jefferson, King, Figarden, Hidalgo, Thomas, Turner, Yokomi, and Manchester Elementary Schools.
- A-6, APPROVE Fresno Pacific University School Psychologist Internship Contracts**
APPROVED as recommended, seven 2024/25 School Psychologist internship contracts. The Special Education Department is contracting with seven school psychologist interns. Interns are identified by local universities with an active memorandum of understanding with Fresno Unified. Eligible graduate program students interested in earning a Clear Pupil Personnel Services in School Psychology credential must complete a minimum of 450 internship hours. The intended outcome of these internships is to develop a pool of qualified school psychologist candidates for potential hire.
- A-7, APPROVE Annual Agreements for the 2024/25 School Year – Primary Report**
APPROVED as recommended, a matrix which details agreements to provide services to Fresno Unified School District. The first item includes the Primary Report with all agreements with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining agreements are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item. Agreements will commence after Board approval and will end no later than June 30, 2025.
- A-8, APPROVE Annual Agreements for the 2024/25 School Year – Supplemental Report**
APPROVED as recommended, a matrix which details agreements to provide services to Fresno Unified School District. The first item includes the Primary Report with all agreements with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining agreements are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item. Agreements will commence after Board approval and will end no later than June 30, 2025.
- A-9, APPROVE Agreement with Claremont Partners**
APPROVED as recommended, a three-year agreement with Claremont Partners for prescription benefit management (PBM) consulting services for \$110,000 per year.
- A-10, APPROVE Agreement with Navex Global, Inc.**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Navex Global, Inc. (Navex). Navex will offer online compliance training for all Fresno Unified School District permanent, substitute and supplemental employees.

The Navex Learning Management System Hosted Training subscription grants Fresno Unified School District access to three (3) online training courses per year for up to the defined number of licenses of 14,500 as stated in this Agreement. The number of licenses allows for employee turnover. Mandated training courses include Sexual Harassment and Workplace Violence Prevention; the third training course included is Ethics and Code of Conduct.

A-11, APPROVE Memorandums of Understanding with Partner Organizations Involved in the Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative

APPROVED as recommended, three Memorandums of Understanding with the partner institutions involved in the Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative (ECPI) awarded by The Wallace Foundation. Through the partnership with San Diego State University, National University, and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the grant will support the development of an equity-centered leadership pipeline. Fresno Unified is required to serve as the fiscal agent to distribute and monitor the grant funds to the partner organizations.

A-12, DENY Claim GL24-0130-10714

DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by a minor, case GL24-0130-10714.

A-13, DENY Claim GL24-0506-11559

DENIED as recommended, a Claim for Damages by Ernesto Jose Pena Martinez, case GL24-0506-11559.

A-14, RATIFY Agreement with Corwin Press

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Corwin Press to provide one three-hour PLC+ foundational training session to all Fresno Unified PK-12 classroom teachers. The PLC+ foundational training will invite grade level/department teams to explore and implement the PLC+ process and is offered in alignment with the collective bargaining agreement between Fresno Unified School District and the Fresno Teacher's Association which states in part "all PLCs shall receive PLC+ training."

A-15, RATIFY Agreement with K12 Insight

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement between Fresno Unified School District and K12 Insight. K12 Insight helps school districts deliver superior customer experiences using "Let's Talk" - an all-in-one customer experience and intelligence platform purpose-built for education. "Let's Talk" gives students, staff, and families an accessible way to ask questions, report concerns, and provide feedback from any device or channel, including forms, text messages, phone calls, chatbot, and more.

A-16, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for projects as follows: Bid 22-40, Hoover High School Library Modernization, Change Order 6 presented for ratification: \$-103,148;

Bid 24-40, Center for Professional Development Concrete Masonry Block Wall Installation, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$5,700; and Bid 24-43, Education Center Annex Interior Finish Upgrades, Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$32,372.

A-17, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for projects, which have been completed according to plans and specifications as follows: Bid 22-40, Hoover High School Library Modernization; Bid 23-64, Bullard Talent K-8 School Office Portable Project; and Bid 24-40, Center for Professional Development Concrete Masonry Block Wall Installation.

A-18, RATIFY Purchase Orders from April 01, 2024, through April 30, 2024 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from April 01, 2024, through April 30, 2024. Two agenda items are presented to ratify purchase orders. The first item includes the Primary Report with all purchase orders issued during the reported dates with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.

A-19, RATIFY Purchase Orders from April 01, 2024, through April 30, 2024– Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from April 01, 2024, through April 30, 2024-Supplemental Report.

For the record, Member Levine read a statement as follows:

“Agenda item A-19 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, contains purchase orders for the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, the CSU Fresno Foundation, California State University, Fresno, CSUF Association Food Services, CSUF Association, and the CSUF/Downing Planetarium. I am currently employed by Fresno State.

Additionally, item A-19 contains purchase orders with the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, and I am employed by Fresno County EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation.

I did not participate in the making of the purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with both Fresno State and Fresno County EOC I have a remote financial interest in those purchase orders.

Therefore, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board Clerk Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board ratified agenda item A-19, by a vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows, AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Clerk Davis, and Board President Wittrup. ABSTNETIONS: Board Member Levine

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

For the record, there were no items for this section of the agenda.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, there were no items for this section of the agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received one (1) request to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual’s name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Erin Burd, Executive Director of Arts and Enrichment for All requested the district to expand the list of qualified vendors for Proposition 28 Arts and Music in Schools Act.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:33 p.m.