



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

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Fresno, California

February 12, 2025

Fresno Unified School District, Education Center, 2309 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on February 12, 2025, there were present Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis. Interim Superintendent Mao Misty Her was also present.

Board President Davis CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

For the record, Board Clerk Islas arrived at 4:37 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bryan Wells led the Flag Salute.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received thirteen (13) requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Jennifer Lee shared support for Designated Schools.
2. Drew Colburn shared Support for Designated Schools.
3. Claudia Silva shared support for Designated Schools.
4. Daniele Beall Larsen shared support for Designated Schools.
5. Ester Rojas Jasso shared support for Designated Schools.
6. Cathye Estes shared concerns related to teacher safety.
7. Jessica Cox shared support for Designated Schools.
8. Chrysann Johnston shared support for Designated Schools.
9. Maryan Rojas shared support for Designated Schools.
10. James Dunn shared support for teachers of schools feeding into Fresno High School.
11. A.J. Pipkin shared concern about the way Fresno Unified is managed.
12. Marina Santos shared support for Designated Schools.

13. Manuel Bonilla shared support for Designated Schools.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

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

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:02 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:25 p.m.

Board President Davis RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:28 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in closed session to approve dismissal of a classified employee 1080055, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Board Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.
- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in closed session to approve dismissal of a classified employee 1079643, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Board Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.
- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board acted in closed session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Leticia Cervantes, Case No. 2016-0365, by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Board Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis. NOES: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.
- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board acted in closed session to deny the construction contract extra-work claim from Pacific Rim Painting due to lack of contract entitlement and to reenforce the District's Change Order numbers 1 and 2 regarding Bullard High School work, by a roll call vote of 0-0-0- as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Board Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.

For the record, Clerk Islas read the approved Board Shared Agreements which are a component of the Student Outcomes Focused Governance work with the Council of Great City Schools. The Board Shared Agreements are as follows:

- **Respect and Civility** – Honor our shared agreements.
- **Be Honest and Honorable** – Honor my word and do not lie, deflect, or disparage others.
- **Honor the Process and any Time Limits**
- **Honor Confidentiality**
- **Be Prepared and On Time** – Be on time. Read materials or share questions ahead of time. Share as early as possible if I will be late or miss a commitment.
- **Represent All Students** - Do not represent solely my region/area.

For the record, President Davis requested the Board to entertain a motion to move, to the top of the agenda, item C-13, Approve Award of Request for Qualifications 25-18, Superintendent Search Firm.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Isas, the Board approved to move to the top of the agenda item C-13, Approve Award of Request for Qualifications 25-18, Superintendent Search Firm, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.

For the record, there were no individuals for public comment on this item.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item C-13, Approve Award of Request for Qualifications 25-18, Superintendent Search Firm, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-1, PRESENT and DISCUSS Superintendent Search Firm

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests from the public to address agenda item B-1, Present and Discuss Superintendent Search Firm.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item B-1, Present and Discuss Superintendent Search Firm. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas shared that the Board has been looking forward to this work.

For the record, Ben Johnson with McPherson & Jacobson, LLC presented to the Board.

B-2, DISCUSS and ADOPT Search Screens and Exclusionary Criteria for Superintendent Search Process

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests from the public to address agenda item B-2, Discuss and Adopt Search Screens and Exclusionary Criteria for Superintendent Search Process.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item B-2, Discuss and Adopt Search Screens and Exclusionary Criteria for Superintendent Search Process. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas requested to speak but comments were for the next agenda item.

Member Levine thanked the sub-committee for the time devoted to this work and commented on agreeing with the vast majority of the criteria.

Member Levine commented on not wanting to limit strong candidates that may not have specific experiences and suggested amendments to the exclusionary criteria as follows:

1. Candidate must hold a valid Administrative Service Credential or equivalent if from another state.
2. Candidate must have K-12 teaching experience and/or site administrative experience.
3. Candidate must have previous district level experience.
5. Candidate may not be a party to pending criminal litigation.

Member Levine suggested amendments to the screening questions as follows:

1. Please describe your experience with Student Outcomes Focused Governance. How does SOFG compare to the governance model used in your district?
5. Describe your experience working directly with labor unions during a contentious time that required you to work together on behalf of students. How did you approach this situation?

For the record, Ambra O'Connor was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved agenda item B-2, Discuss and Adopt Search Screens and Exclusionary Criteria for Superintendent Search Process with the aforementioned amendments by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.

B-3, DISCUSS and APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT POSITION DESCRIPTION

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests from the public to address agenda item B-3, Discuss and Approve Superintendent Position Description.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item B-3, Discuss and Approve Superintendent Position Description. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas suggested an amendment to the superintendent position description as follows: the superintendent's evaluation will be based on accomplishing the goals while honoring the guardrails. Member Jonasson Rosas commented that the candidates should know that their evaluation will be based on the goals and guardrails listed in the position description.

Member Jonasson Rosas referenced Question 9) What is your experience and comfort level with interviews via radio, television, and newspaper; and suggested a question be added requesting candidates to provide evidence of improved student outcomes from their previous role to support their experience.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that brevity and conciseness is a friend and requested that a limited word count of 200 be applied to each question for candidate response.

For the record, Ambra O'Connor was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item B-3, Discuss and Approve Superintendent Position Description with the aforementioned amendments. by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.

B-4, HOLD a Public Hearing and Approve the Sierra Charter School Charter Renewal Petition, and ADOPT Resolution No. 25-31, Certifying Approval of the Renewal Petition

For the record, Board President Davis opened the public hearing at 6:58 p.m.

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests to address the Board on agenda item B-4.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item B-4, HOLD Public Hearing and Approve the Sierra Charter School Charter Renewal Petition, and ADOPT Resolution No. 25-31, Certifying Approval of the Renewal Petition. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas thanked staff of Sierra Charter School for the invite and tour the campus.

Member Levine thanked Sierra Charter staff for following up to questions from the previous Board meeting. Member Levine commented that due to the mathematics scores at Sierra Charter he would not vote in favor of renewing the petition.

For the record, Board President Davis closed the public hearing at 6:58 p.m.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item B-4, HOLD Public Hearing and APPROVE the Sierra Charter School Charter Renewal Petition, and ADOPT Resolution No. 25-31, Certifying Approval of the Renewal Petition by a roll call vote of 5-2-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board President Davis. NOES: Board Clerk Islas, and Board Member Levine.

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 Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C-20 by a vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.

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.

C. CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1, APPROVE Personnel List**
APPROVED as recommended, the Personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.
- C-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 meeting of the Board held January 22, 2025.
- C-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**
APPROVED as recommended, draft minutes for January 22, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Education.
- C-4, ADOPT Resolution No. 25-51, Reaffirming the Month of February 2025 as African American History Month**
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 25-51, Reaffirming the Month of February 2025 as African American History Month.
- C-5, ADOPT Provisional Internship Permits**
ADOPTED as recommended, Provisional Internship Permit recommendations to rehire or hire teachers for the 2024/25 school year due to hard-to-fill credential positions.
- C-6, ADOPT Waiver Request for Kiza Kelsy Franco**
ADOPTED as recommended, a waiver request for Kiza Kelsey Franco to serve as an Adapted Physical Education teacher at Rata.
- C-7, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver Requests for Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language and Development Authorization**
ADOPTED as recommended, Variable Term Waiver requests for the Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language and Development Authorization for the 2024/25 school year.
- C-8, APPROVE Agreement with the Department of the Air Forces and Duncan Polytechnical High School**
APPROVED as recommended, a five-year agreement between the Department of the Air Force and Duncan Polytechnical High School. This agreement will allow the Department of the Air Force to continue to operate an Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ARJROTC) program on campus, starting July 2025 through June 2030.

C-9, APPROVE Agreement with the Department of General Services/Office of Administrative Hearings

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with the Department of General Services/Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). The request is to renew the five-year contract in the amount of \$48,000 to account for services of Administrative Law Judges, and case management for the purpose of mediation and conducting dismissal hearings pursuant to Government Code Section 27727.

C-10, APPROVE Agreement with Learning Genie

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Learning Genie to provide a three-year subscription software license to the Early Learning Department to continue to utilize the mobile and web-based online platform.

C-11, APPROVE Agreement with Outfront Media

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Outfront Media to provide billboard advertisement for Fresno Unified Career Technical Education (CTE) programs and pathways. This agreement aims to raise awareness of the various CTE pathways and programs available to students within Fresno Unified, with the goal of increasing enrollment in CTE courses and encouraging participation in CTE student organizations.

C-12, APPROVE a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the City of Fresno and AUTHORIZE the Interim Superintendent or Designees to Sign the Agreement and Related Easement Deed

APPROVED as recommended, information regarding the City of Fresno Installation of a High-Intensity activated crosswalk (HAWK) Traffic Signal at Chestnut and Weldon Avenues adjacent to Ericson Elementary School.

C-13, APPROVE Award of Request for Qualifications 25-18, Superintendent Search Firm

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Qualifications 25-23, to qualify a pool of firms to complete a national superintendent search. The term is a one-year period with the option to renew for four one-year periods and will begin February 13, 2025.

C-14, DENY Claim GL18-0129-381

DENIED as recommended, a claim for Damages by Worldwide Aircraft Services, Inc. d/b/a Jet ICU, claim GL18-0129-381.

C-15, DENY Claim GL24-0112-11903

DENIED as recommended, a claim for Damages by Jacob Westfall, Claim GL24-0112-11903.

C-16, RATIFY Grant Applications for the After School Education and Safety Program Renewal

RATIFIED as recommended, grant applications for renewal and new funding through the California Department of Education.

C-17, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for projects is as follows:

Bid 22-21, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus Change Order 14 presented for ratification: \$331,363.

RFQP 23-12A, Design Build Services for the Multi-Site Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Design & Replacement Project (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III Federal Fund) Change Order 1 (Phase III) presented for ratification: \$-2,826,671 Change Order 2 (Phase III) presented for ratification: \$-166,906 Change Order 1 (Phase IV) presented for ratification: \$-2,746,283 Change Order 2 (Phase IV) presented for ratification: \$-113,150.

Bid 24-16, Roeding Elementary School Confidential Spaces and Administration Building Modernization Change Order 6 presented for ratification: \$68,368.

Bid 24-31, Bullard High School Gyms Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Improvement Project Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$92,691.

Bid 24-49 Sections A, B, C, and D, Multipurpose Room Audio/Visual Upgrades at Various Sites Change Order 1 (Section A) presented for ratification: \$2,282 Change Order 1 (Section B) presented for ratification: \$1,021 Change Order 1 (Section C) presented for ratification: \$2,569 Change Order 1 (Section D) presented for ratification (days only): \$0.

Bid 24-82, Heaton Elementary School Confidential Space Installation Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$10,124.

Bid 24-87, Gaston Middle School Sitework and Portable Improvement Change Order 4 presented for ratification: \$-24,885.

C-18, 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 21-10, Ewing Elementary School Early Learning Building and Parking Lot Improvements.

Bid 22-21, Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus.

Bid 24-96 Sections A, B, and C, King and Lincoln Elementary Schools and Cesar Chavez Adult School Playground Equipment Replacement.

C-19, RATIFY November Purchase Orders – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders from November 01, 2024, through November 20, 2024.

C-20, RATIFY November Purchase Orders – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders from November 01, 2024, through November 20, 2024.

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

“Agenda item C-20 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, contains purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and, CSUF Association Food Services, and Fresno State University. I am employed by Fresno State.

Additionally, item C-20 contains purchase orders with the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission and Fresno County EOC/Food Service. 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 Islas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved agenda item C-20, by a vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Levine.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received seventeen (17) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual’s name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Carlos Fonseca ceded time to Elva Fonseca.
2. Elva Fonseca shared concerns related to the school bus safety rodeo.
3. David Alvarez shared concerns related to comments made by a district

- teacher.
4. Ashley Rojas shared concerns related to comments made by a district teacher.
 5. Daisy Camacho shared concerns related to comments made by a district teacher.
 6. Ash Montemayor shared concerns related to comments made by a teacher.
 7. Stacy Williams read a student statement sharing concerns related to comments made by a teacher.
 8. Mel read a student statement sharing concerns related to comments made by a teacher and a request that teacher be no longer employed by Fresno Unified School District.
 9. Eris read a student statement sharing concerns related to comments made by a teacher.
 10. Diego Rivera read a student statement sharing concerns related to immigrant and mixed status families.
 11. Danny Aranda was not present when called to the podium.
 12. Miguel played an excerpt from cell phone related to immigration.
 13. Vale spoke in Spanish for language equality.
 14. Alfredo Gonzalez shared concerns related to comments made by a district teacher.
 15. Alex Ramos-O'Casey asked the Board to remember three words, accountability, care, and prevention and shared concerns related to comments made by a district teacher.
 16. Kelli Parks shared support for First Student.
 17. Jacole Paul shared support for First Student.
 18. Jeremy Higgins shared support for First Student.
 19. Michael Seley shared concerns related to comments made by a district teacher and in support of First Student bus drivers.

For the record, at this time, Board Clerk Islas took a moment of privilege to acknowledge students from McLane and Duncan who walked out of class to express their concerns related to treatment of the immigrant community.

Clerk Islas commented on being inspired and proud of students as they exercised their civil rights in a peaceful demonstration wanting to be the voice and representation for their community.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:39 p.m.