



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 26, 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 26, 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.

For the record, Board Member Thomas arrived at 4:55 p.m.

Board President Davis CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Board President Davis shared that Trustee Claudia Cazares requested to participate in the meeting via teleconferencing based on “Just Cause” under Government Code Section 54953, Subdivision (e)(2)(A)(i).

Trustee Cazares provided a brief, general reason for this request, and confirmed there were no individuals over the age of 18 at Trustee Cazares’s remote location.

This request required a majority vote under Government Code Section 54954.2, Subdivision (b)(4).

On a motion by Board Clerk Islas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board approved Member Cazares to participate via teleconference by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and President Davis. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tami Lundberg led the Flag Salute.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

1. For the record, the Board received seven (7) requests to address the Board on the Closed Session item No. 4 Public Employment/Appointment (Government Code Section 54957) item a. Superintendent Search.

The seven individuals are students of Edison High School and part of Health Corps Edison. Their names are Evelyn Cosme-Guzman, Itzel Rodriguez Cervantez, Rubi Perez Zaragoza, Savannah Falls, Anthony Calderon, Alexa Shafer, and Alyssa Blanco.

Students shared that Health Corps Edison is a group of students who would like to help solve issues their community may face and their initial mission was to make sure staff and students at Edison had quick access to NARCAN.

Additionally, students shared information and statistics pertaining to opioid abuse and to NARCAN. The Health Corp Edison students support education, training and access to NARCAN at schools and want the Superintendent and Board Members to know that NARCAN is important to the lives of students.

Students provided a handout, Tigers 4 NARCAN, to the Board, see Appendix A.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of the Fresno Unified School District Second Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2024/25.

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:51 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:53 p.m.

Board President Davis RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:54 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to approve Resolution No. 25-47, Administrator Release and Reassignment Decrease in Duty Year for the 2025/26 School Year, by a roll call 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 Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to approve Resolution No. 25-48, Return of Teachers on Special Assignment to Classroom Teaching Assignment, by a roll call 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 Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to approve Resolution No. 25-49, Reduction and/or Elimination of Classified Positions for the 2025/26 School Year, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 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 Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to approve Resolution No. 25-50, Reduction and/or Elimination of Particular Kinds of Certificated Services for the 2025/26 School Year, by a roll call 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 Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to approve Resolution No. 25-52, Administrator Release and Reassignment for the 2025/26 School Year, by a roll call 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 Resolution No. 25-54, Ordering the Dismissal of a Permanent Classified Employee #1007651, by a roll call 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 Wittrup, the Board acted in closed session to approve Resolution No. 25-59, Approving Notice of Intent to Dismiss and Statement of Charges for Dismissal of a Permanent Certificated Employee #1051151, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0- 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.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-1, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Local Control and Accountability Plan Mid-Year Report

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests from the public to address agenda item B-1, Present and Discuss the Local Control and Accountability Plan Mid-Year Report.

For the record, Ashlee Chiarito, Ed.D., and Marie Williams, Ed.D., presented this item.

B-2, OPPORTUNITY for Public Disclosure and RATIFICATION of the 2024-2027 Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and California School Employees Association, Chapter 125

For the record, the Board received one (1) request from the public to address agenda item B-2, Opportunity for Public Disclosure and Ratification of the 2024-2027 Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and California School Employees Association, Chapter 125.

The individual's name along with a summary to topic is as follows:

1. Eufemia Sanchez: As president of the California School Employees Association, Chapter 125, extended a heartfelt thank you to the Board for approving the tentative agreement.

For the record, Annarita Howell presented this item.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item B-2, Opportunity for Public Disclosure and Ratification of the 2024-2027 Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Fresno Unified School District and California School Employees Association, Chapter 125, 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, PRESENT and DISCUSS Revised Draft Interim Goals and Guardrails

For the record, the Board received zero (0) requests from the public to address agenda item B-3, Present and Discuss Revised Draft Interim Goals and Guardrails.

For the record, Board members had comments pertaining to agenda item B-3, Present and Discuss Revised Draft Interim Goals and Guardrails. A summary is as follows:

There were no Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Goals for Early Literacy Proficiency.

Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Goals for Literacy Intervention are as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas asked when the Board could expect the percentages for the X% and Y% to be met. Member Jonasson Rosas commented that if the timeline states June 2024 for first and second interim goal, it presumes data is available to calculate and if not, the goal should not start retroactively; if data can be pulled for June 2024, then why are X% not provided.

Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Goals for College and Career Readiness are as follows:

President Davis directed staff to clearly communicate to the Fresno Unified students and community what assessments students are expected to complete so students may successfully fulfill.

There were no Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Goals for Life Skills are as follows:

Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Guardrails for Community Engagement are as follows:

Member Levine commented it is the role of the Board to provide staff with the Board's definition of what constitutes a major decision.

Member Cazares referenced the interim guardrail that states, By December 2025, specific criteria will be established to include in all community engagement plans and asked the Board to consider an August or September 2025 date.

Board members agreed to change December 2025 to August 2025.

Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Guardrails for Equitable Access are as follows:

Member Levine asked if percentages are met but there are still one or more subgroups falling behind where does that fit in with monitoring. Member Levine commented the interim guardrail is unclear as it reads as an aggregate percentage and suggested staff use, in each of the identified subgroups.

Member Thomas requested clarification as to why the pivot from Universal Design for Learning to Targeted Universalism.

Member Jonasson Rosas suggested that instead of seeing it as one group increasing towards a center, to see it as no group shall be more than one standard deviation away, so everyone coalesces in the middle and then performs and advances at the same time.

There were no Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Guardrails for Effective Staff.

Board member comments provided for Draft: Interim Guardrails for Health and Wellness are as follows:

President Davis referenced having attended a Mental Health Townhall at which the student voice feedback provided was that social/emotional learning be provided to students as early as possible.

For the record, Interim Superintendent Her, Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Marie Williams, Ed.D., David, Chavez, and Ambra O'Connor were available to provide clarity.

B-4, DISCUSS and ADOPT District Guardrails

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

For the record, Board members had comments pertaining to agenda item B-4, Discuss and Adopt District Guardrails. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas suggested the Board establish a dollar amount as well as a gut check of the Board.

Clerk Islas commented the current limit of \$15,000 seems low and suggested the Board consider a larger amount. Clerk Islas requested clarity as to whether the \$15,000 limit applied to sponsorship and donations.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that in defining major decisions the amount should be more than \$15,000 and suggested \$150,000 as well as if two or more of the Board weigh in on an issue.

Member Thomas commented that a temperature check of the Board has always

been a majority, and two Board members is not enough as two Board members may agree and the other five may not agree.

Member Jonasson Rosas suggested that a major decision equals something that could trigger litigation, as well as something that involves a decision with a cost of over \$150,000, and a decision in which concerns are raised by two or more Board members. Member Jonasson Rosas commented that these criteria would then prompt the Superintendent to create a community engagement plan to bring to the Board so the Board may approve before the plan is implemented.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that her understanding for this guardrail is that the Board did not want decisions made without first having a plan in place and commented that there have been occasions when decisions, substantial to the community, were made and the district did not have the best way of communicating.

Interim Superintendent Her checked for clarity--pertaining to major decisions, Board members would like to be provided with a plan ahead of time so Board members can be very informed of what is going to happen. Interim Superintendent shared an example of school boundary changes, the Superintendent would inform the Board of the need and present a plan of how the district will engage the community and gather community feedback, then the Board has an opportunity to request changes to the plan or to approve the plan.

Member Levine commented on liking the direction staffing is going with the second Interim Guardrail for Community Engagement, which reads: From June 2024 to June 2026, the percentage of major decisions brought to the Board for approval that impact more than 25% of a targeted group that includes a community engagement plan will increase from 0% to X%. Member Levine suggested the language of 25% of a targeted group be included if the Board decides to go with a multiple-choice definition for what constitutes a major decision.

Member Islas commented that an important consideration is the profound impact a decision may have on students and families, if the impact will be negative or burdensome.

Member Thomas commented that community engagement is needed with any proposed change to a facility, such as painting, murals, or new buildings.

Interim Superintendent checked for clarity—at times there is work that may not have a specific dollar amount and does not affect a large number of people but is sensitive to the community and asked if the Board was including this in the requirement for a community engagement plan as well.

Member Thomas commented in reference to the engagement plan, adults are the taxpayers, the district needs to engage enough adults; and historically it has been difficult to get people to come out to voice their opinions, finding different ways to engage the community is needed. Student voice is needed as well but the district should not forget about the taxpayers.

Board members discussed the definition of “major decisions” could mean information outlined in a Board Policy as this would allow the Board to approve the item and for the Board Bylaw Subcommittee to then draft policies that would return to the Board for consideration during a public meeting.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board adopted agenda item B-4, Discuss and Adopt District Guardrails by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Board Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis.

For the record, Interim Superintendent, Ambra O’Connor, Bryan Martin, Patrick Jensen and Sue Deigarrrd were available to provide clarity.

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 Levine, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C-7 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, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**
APPROVED as recommended, draft minutes for the Board workshop held February 05, 2025, and the regular meeting of the Board of Education held February 12, 2025.
- C-3, 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 February 12, 2025.
- C-4, 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-5, APPROVE Agreement with BMI Dependent Verification Audit**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with BMI to provide dependent eligibility review services related to the district's health plan.
- C-6, APPROVE Agreement with City of Fresno, Saroyan Theatre**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with the City of Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center, Saroyan Theatre to host the Class of 2025 graduation ceremonies and associated practices.
- C-7, APPROVE Agreements with Save Mart Center at Fresno State**
APPROVED as recommended, agreements with the Save Mart Center at Fresno State to host the Class of 2025 graduation ceremonies and associated practices. Roosevelt, Edison, Fresno, Bullard, Hoover, Sunnyside, and Farber Educational Center High School will utilize this venue for their ceremonies.

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

Agenda item C-7 on tonight's Consent Agenda, contains an agreement between Fresno Unified School District and the Save Mart Center at Fresno State.

I did not participate in the making of the agreement related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with Fresno State I have a remote financial interest in the agreement.

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

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board approved agenda item C-7, Approve Agreements with Save Mart Center at Fresno State, by a vote of 5-0-1-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Board Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis. ABSTENTION: Board Member Levine. ABSENT: Board Member Cazares.

C-8, APPROVE Grant Agreement with Self Help Enterprises

APPROVED as recommended, the grant agreement from Self Help Enterprises for the Drinking Water for Schools Grant Program. Self Help Enterprises is the primary grantee and administrator of the program funded by the California State Water Resources Control Board. Self Help has sub awarded \$50,040 to Fresno Unified for the replacement of three drinking fountains with new drinking fountain bottle filling stations at Sunset Elementary.

C-9, RATIFY Agreement with McPherson & Jacobson, LLC to Conduct Superintendent Search

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with McPherson & Jacobson, LLC to complete a national Superintendent search. On February 12, 2025, the Board approved Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 25-18 and listened to the presentation provided by Mcpherson & Jacobson, LLC. McPherson & Jacobson, LLC will conduct the search as delineated in their response to RFQ 25-18, Superintendent Search Firm, and began preliminary work on February 14, 2025.

C-10, RATIFY Retiree Contracts for Patricia Atitya and Alicia Abrego

RATIFIED as recommended, two Registered Nurse retiree contracts, one for Patricia Atitya and one for Alicia Abrego. Both Ms. Atitya and Ms. Abrego continue to support the Health Services Department with California state-mandated vision and hearing screenings and Individualized Education Plans.

C-11, RATIFY Memorandum of Understanding with the Orange County Superintendent of Schools

RATIFIED as recommended, a Memorandum of Understanding between Fresno Unified School District and the Orange County Superintendent of Schools. The agreement will allow Fresno Unified School District teachers to attend the Hmong History and Cultural Studies Model Curriculum Conference held on Friday, May 02, and Saturday, May 03, 2025, at the Piccadilly Inn in Fresno. The agreement will cover substitute teacher costs and stipend costs for teachers who attend the conference. The purpose of the conference is to assist educators in teaching about the diaspora, histories, cultures, and traditions of Hmong peoples as part of Education Finance Bill AB 167.

C-12, RATIFY Change Orders

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

Bid 23-02, Edison High School Career Technical Education Building and Interim Housing. Change Order 5 (CTE Building) presented for ratification: \$153,296.

Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multipurpose Building and Interim Housing. Change Order 8 (MPB) presented for ratification: \$71,359.

Bid 24-35, Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization. Change Order 2 (Admin Bldg. and West Hall) presented for ratification: \$-976,390. Change Order 2 (Library) presented for ratification: \$182,859. Change Order 2 (Theater) presented for ratification: \$72,426.

Bid 24-44, Edison High School South Administration Building Remodel. Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$27,714.

Bid 24-45, Kratt Elementary School Portables Installation and Single Point of Entry. Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$113,949.

Bid 24-58 Section A, Trane Sentry Air Purifiers Installation at Various Sites. Change Order 1 presented for ratification (days only): \$0.

Bid 24-58 Section B, Trane Sentry Air Purifiers Installation at Various Sites. Change Order 1 presented for ratification (days only): \$0.

Bid 24-83, Figarden Elementary School Confidential Space Installation. Change Order 1 presented for ratification: \$27,446.

Bid 24-97, Tehipite Middle School FUSD Technology Hub. Change Order 4 presented for ratification: \$58,691.

C-13, 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 24-31, Bullard High School Gyms HVAC Improvement Project.

Bid 24-44, Edison High School South Administration Building Remodel.

Bid 24-45, Kratt Elementary School Portables Installation and Single Point of Entry.

Bid 24-58, Section A, Trane Sentry Air Purifiers Installation at Various Sites.

Bid 24-58, Section B, Trane Sentry Air Purifiers Installation at Various Sites.

Bid 24-83, Figarden Elementary School Confidential Space Installation.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received four (4) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Paul Griffin: Shared concerns regarding R39 and requested a waiver.
2. Carlos Fonseca: Ceded time to Elva Fonseca.
3. Elva Fonseca: Requested access to busses 16 and 81 along with cleaning supplies to prepare for the School Bus Rodeo.
4. Steve Fabella: Thanked Paul Idsvoog and staff for quickly helping with a concern regarding pool technician footwear.

OPPORTUNITY for Board Member Reflections on the Board Shared Agreements

For the record, no sharing.

Board President Davis ADJOURNED to Closed Session at 8:17 p.m.

Board President Davis RECONVENED the meeting at 8:57

Reporting Out of Closed Session

For the record, there was no action to report.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:57 p.m.