



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
2309 TULARE STREET  
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR  
FRESNO, CA 93721  
[fresnounified.org/board](https://fresnounified.org/board)

## **MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

**Fresno, California**  
**September 10, 2025**

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

At the regular meeting of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education held September 10, 2025, there were present Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and Board President Davis. Superintendent Her was also present.

For the record, Member Jonasson Rosas arrived at 4:36 p.m.

For the record, Board Member Thomas participated from the teleconference location as follows: Holiday Inn Chicago Downtown – The Mart by IHG, 350 W Wolf Point Plaza, Building 2, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

Pursuant to Governments Code Section 54953 (B) (2), all action taken during this teleconference meeting shall be by roll call vote.

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ben Amuku Drati, Ed.D., led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

For the record, the Board was in receipt of zero (0) public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

### **A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**

For the record, the Board was in receipt of Agenda Item A-1, Receive Actual Cost Information for the Sale of the General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2024, Series A and the 2025 Refunding General Obligation Bonds, Series A (Tax-Exempt), and Series B (Federally Taxable).

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

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

Board President Davis RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:35 p.m.

### Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board acted in closed session to lateral Karen Furlow, to Director, Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and President Davis.
- On a motion by Board President Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to approve providing a defense for a District employee, under Government Code sections 825 and 995, in the case of Stephanie Vasquez v. Fresno Unified School District and Amy Idsvoog, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 25CECG03880., by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Clerk Islas, and President Davis. NOES: Board Member Wittrup.
- On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board President Davis, the Board acted in closed session to approve providing a defense for two District employees, under Government Code sections 825 and 995, in the case of Charlene Cardoza v. Fresno Unified School District, Amy Idsvoog, and David Ray, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 25CECG03765., by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and President Davis. NOES: Board Member Wittrup.

For the record, Clerk Islas read the approved Board Shared Agreements which 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, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2024/25 Unaudited Actual Financial Report**

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Present and Approve the 2024/25 Unaudited Actual Financial Report.

For the record, Board Members provided comments and raised questions regarding agenda item B-1. A summary of Board Member feedback is outlined below:

**Member Jonasson Rosas** asked if staff have considered not funding the Workers' Compensation fund at 100%. Member Jonasson Rosas commented on the decrease as well as the increase in the post-employment retirement benefits reserve liability and asked staff what contributed to this. Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity as to whether the district is funding at a rate higher than the rising healthcare costs.

**Member Levine** commented on the current year's changes to the unrestricted general fund and the \$1.4 and \$1.2 million additional revenues related to transportation, and asked staff if this is due to support from after school programs. Member Levine requested clarity as to whether the additional revenue is tied to a specific budget. Member Levine offered for staff to follow up with sites creative ways to get students to and from schools.

**Member Thomas** shared concern regarding the OPED liability and the health fund and requested to have a conversation before acting.

**President Davis** requested clarity as to what happens on October 15 if charter schools do not reach the required 3% reserve. Member Davis asked about enrollment and grade-levels for the schools.

**Member Cazares** requested clarity as to the unrestricted general fund balance and difference of \$11 million and asked if the resources had already been budgeted. Member Cazares asked the same question regarding the \$17 million and commented on not having enough information on what this Board is able to do with the money or what staff has recommended doing with the money.

Member Cazares referenced slide 7 in the presentation and commented if central administration is taking a cut is the expectation that the percentage will go down as well.

Member Cazares echoed Member Jonasson Rosas's comment on funding 100% of Workers' Compensation if it is savings, one-time money that could be used this year Member Cazares agrees. Member Cazares referenced slide 10 in the presentation and asked if the district is required to fund the health fund at 100%.

**Member Thomas** asked what action pertaining to Charter Schools would look like. Member Thomas asked if staff would look at long-term solutions for electric busses.

For the record, Patrick Jensen was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved the 2024/25 Unaudited Actual Financial Report, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Islas, and President Davis.

### **OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items**

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C-17 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.

**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, 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 August 27, 2025.

#### **C-2, ADOPT Resolution #26-07, Certifying Course-Based Independent Study at Farber Online**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution No. 26-07, Certifying Course-Based Independent Study at Farber Online for the 2025/26 school year. Course-Based Independent Study is one of two types of independent study offered in California and is designed to deliver remote or virtual educational options. This annual resolution will confirm the certification of courses in which students are enrolled at Farber Online.

- C-3, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-10, Support of Applications for Eligibility Determination and Funding, and Designation of Authorized District Representatives**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolution No. 26-10, Support of Applications for Eligibility Determination and Funding, and Designation of Authorized District Representatives. The Resolution is related to the Department of General Services and the State Allocation Board administered programs in support of eligibility determination and funding, as well as designation of authorized district representatives to sign and submit documents on behalf of Fresno Unified School District.
- C-4, ADOPT Provisional Internship Permits**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) recommendations to rehire or hire upon Board adoption.
- C-5, ADOPT Variable Term Waivers for Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language and Development Authorization**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, Bilingual Cross-Cultural, Language and Development (BCLAD) Authorization for the 2025/26 school year. The Education Code 44225(m) allows the commission to grant waivers to fill an area deemed hard-to-fill. The candidates referenced in the support material are working towards completing the required coursework for the multiple subject credential and BCLAD Authorization.
- C-6, ADOPT Waiver Request for Kiza Kelsey-Franco**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, a waiver request for Kiza Kelsey-Franco to serve as an adapted physical education teacher at Rata High School. Title 5 80046.1 allows the commission to grant waivers to fill unanticipated needs in an area deemed hard-to-fill. The variable term waiver will allow Ms. Kelsey-Franco to work in an adapted physical education position for the 2025/26 school year. Kiza Kelsey-Franco holds a preliminary credential in general education physical education and is in a program to add the special education adapted physical education credential.
- C-7, ADOPT Waiver Request for Myra Stephanie Rubio**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, a waiver request for Myra Stephanie Rubio to serve as a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher. The Education Code 44225(m) allows the commission to grant waivers to fill unanticipated needs in an area deemed hard-to-fill. Myra Stephanie Rubio holds a master's degree in Deaf Education. This is a one-year subsequent academic waiver for the 2025/26 school year.
- C-8, APPROVE Personnel List**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the Personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.
- C-9, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the draft minutes for the regular meeting of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education held August 27, 2025.

**C-10, APPROVE Article 20 Waiver Renewals for the 2025/26 School Year**

**APPROVED as recommended**, Article 20 Waivers to allow alternative scheduling for the 2025/26 school year at Computech Middle School, Cooper IB Academy, and Bullard Talent K-8 School.

**C-11, APPROVE Addition to Legal Services Agreements for 2025/26**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a document listing an additional legal firm recommended for approval to provide legal services to Fresno Unified School District during the 2025/26 fiscal year. The firm's name, location, and attorney hourly rates are also listed.

**C-12, APPROVE Memorandums of Understanding with Partner Organizations Involved in the Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative**

**APPROVED as recommended**, agreements with the partners involved in The Wallace Foundation grant to allow for the distribution of funds.

**C-13, DENY Claim GL25-0207-14921**

**DENIED as recommended**, a Claim for Damages by two minors, case GL25-0207-14921.

**C-14, DENY Claim GL25-0326-14193**

**DENIED as recommended**, a late Claim for Damages by Maria S. Castro, case GL25-0326-14193.

**C-15, RATIFY Agreement with the California Department of Education for the Development of the 2026 Personal Finance Curriculum Guide**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, an agreement with the California Department of Education to have Fresno Unified School District develop the 2026 Personal Finance Curriculum Guide and Resources as mandated by Assembly Bill 2927. This curriculum guide will support the implementation of a stand-alone, one-semester Personal Finance course required for high school graduation beginning with the 2030/31 school year.

**C-16, RATIFY Purchase Orders from June 01, 2025, through June 30, 2025 – Primary Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from June 01, 2025, through June 30, 2025 - Primary Report. 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.

**C-17, RATIFY Purchase Orders from June 01, 2025, through June 30, 2025 – Supplemental Report**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, information on purchase orders issued from June 01, 2025, through June 30, 2025 – Supplemental Report.

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

Agenda item C-17 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and the California Teaching Fellows as well as the CSUF/Downing Planetarium.

I did not participate in the making of the purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with Fresno State, I have a remote financial interest in the 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 Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board ratified agenda item C17 by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0, as follows: AYES: 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 three (3) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual’s name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Mariela K Fernandez de Vallejo expressed concerns of pesticides used on school campuses.
2. Emily Flores-Gutierrez shared a personal experience of a lockdown at school.
3. Cristina Gutierrez commented on two topics as follows: pesticides used on school campuses and communication to students and families in emergency situations.

**OPPORTUNITY for Board Member Reflections on the Board Shared Agreements**

**Member Jonasson Rosas** has volunteered to monitor Board member questions as part of the Board’s work in Student Outcomes Focused Governance, and as such shared expectations as follows: Board members are expected to completely read the monitoring report, participate in the conversation during Board meetings, share questions in writing to the superintendent three working days prior to the monitoring conversation, and 80% of questions must be Smart questions (strategy focused, measure focused and time bound. If expectations are not met it results in an automatic score of zero.

**Member Cazares** asked if sharing the questions three days prior prohibits Board members from asking questions during the meeting.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** explained it does not prohibit questions during the meeting but that Board members are to ask at least one Smart question three days prior to the meeting, during small group meetings as well as the Board meeting and Member Jonasson Rosas will capture, score, and report on all questions.

**Member Wittrup** commented that Member Jonasson Rosas made a good point at the last meeting about the importance of the question as well as the conversational tone. Member Wittrup expressed appreciation as it was helpful.

**Member Islas** requested a point of privilege to make a statement she felt compelled to make, not in representation of the Board but on behalf of herself and the community she represents.

This week we had a Supreme Court decision that really unfortunately sanctions discrimination and racism on the grounds and violates civil rights for many immigrant families that are living in our region. And I really want to express that it is very important to me that immigrant families whether they are Korean, Mexican, South American really understand that they are welcome in our schools, on our campuses. We have a deep commitment to educating all children regardless of their immigration status. Please know your rights, please know there are options for your child's education such as online learning. You will need to reach out to enroll them in relation to that, but we are here to help we are here to help, and we want to make sure that your children's future is not robbed. Please, again, know that they are extremely welcome and we need them to be productive and well educated in our community. Thank you.

**Member Wittrup** congratulated the Bullard Knights on their 56-0 victory.

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 7: 32 p.m.