



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
November 19, 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 November 19, 2025, there were present Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Clerk Islas. Superintendent Her was also present as well as Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane.

For the record, Board President Davis was scheduled to participate via teleconference; however, due to connectivity issues, President Davis was unable to fully participate in Open Session. President Davis's teleconference location was Buganvillas Resort Vacation Club, Boulevard Francisco Medina, Ascencio 999, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, 48300, Mexico. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (b) (2) and all action taken during this teleconference meeting were conducted by roll call vote.

For the record, Board Clerk Islas acted in place of Board President Davis and Board Member Levine acted as Board Clerk.

Board Clerk Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jennifer Stacey-Alcantara led the Pledge of Allegiance.

For the record, at this time Board Clerk Islas read the statement as follows:

It has come to the district's attention that we need to add an item to the closed session agenda of the Board meeting this evening. Specifically, the District needs to add an item to the Closed Session Agenda Section No. 4, Conference with Legal Counsel Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)) titled: "Joni Kolb, Janell Beamon and Heidi Sagasar vs. FUSD, Fresno Superior Court No. 24CECG00947, Claim No. GL23-0629-9338.

The Brown Act, at Government Code Section 54954.2, allows the addition of an item to the agenda, if the Board finds that there is a need to take action as soon as possible and that the need for action came to the attention of the district subsequent to the agenda being posted. In this case, the district received information regarding this case after the agenda was posted and immediate action by the Board is necessary. This action will require a two-thirds vote.

The motion shall be stated in the form of the following questions:

Shall the Board add an item to its closed session agenda titled, "Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)) titled: "Joni Kolb, Janell Beamon and Heidi Sagaser vs. FUSD, Fresno Superior Court No. 24CECG00947, Claim No. GL23-0629-9338"?

And, as part of and in support of this motion, does the Board find that the need for action is immediate and that the need for action came to the attention of the district after the posting of the agenda?

Is there a motion to add the agenda item just described?

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares the board approved the addition of, Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)) titled: "Joni Kolb, Janell Beamon and Heidi Sagaser vs. FUSD, Fresno Superior Court No. 24CECG00947, Claim No. GL23-0629-9338 to the Closed Session Agenda by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Board Clerk Islas. ABSENT: Board President Davis.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received no public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of agenda items A-1 and A-2 as follows:

A-1, Receive the Annual Report for Fresno County and Fresno Unified School District Summary – Williams Legislation.

A-2, Receive Information Regarding the Appointment of Voting Representative and Alternate Voting Representative to the Fresno County Committee on School District Organization.

Board Clerk Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

For the record, closed session was extended to 5:55 p.m.

Board Clerk Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 5:55 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Wittrup the Board acted in closed session to approve dismissal charges for a classified employee, identification number 1080365, 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 Cazares, the Board acted in closed session to promote Pam Taylor to Executive Officer of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, 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 Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board acted in closed session on an alternative dispute resolution legal settlement, student v. Fresno Unified School District, OAH Case No. 2025050901 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 Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board acted in closed session to promote Jennifer Thomas to Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, 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 Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board acted in closed session to promote Nicole Jones to Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, 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 Member Thoams, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board acted in closed session to internally hire Gretchen Saldana to Executive Director of Special Education, 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.

For the record, Member Levine read the approved Board Shared Agreements and shared as a reminder, these jointly established shared agreements are one element of the district's governance efforts to focus on student outcomes.

The 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, DISCUSS and ACCEPT Monitoring Reports: Effective Staff and Community Engagement Interim Guardrails

For the record, the Board received one (1) public request to speak on agenda item B-1, Discuss and Accept Monitoring Reports: Effective Staff and Community Engagement Interim Guardrails. The individual's name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Hayley Rowley commended the Board for the work done towards Student Focused Outcomes Governance.

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

Board Member Wittrup asked how Superintendent Her assessed for root causes during the creation of this plan.

Board Member Cazares recommended staff to reach out to the Trustees regarding meeting venues. Member Cazares commented on the guardrail pertaining to effective staff and asked if staff have any initial thoughts on work to date.

Board Member Levine commented on the community engagement guardrail and wanted the community to know the Board has defined what a major decision is and created a 25% threshold requirement for a community engagement plan but this does not mean the Board will not expect an engagement plan in other cases which may be below the threshold but may be at risk of disproportionately impacting a smaller group of students in positive or negative ways.

Member Levine requested staff to create a plan for how to improve those community engagement plans that may not work well. A way to track where we get feedback, so we continue to learn and improve in the community engagement process.

Board Clerk Islas commented on valuing the effort to broaden and deepen the relationship with the community because that is where we learn and represent the values and interests of our community. Member Islas was reminded by parents of the need to be diligent in releasing information in languages our community needs. Member Islas reminded staff of talks that information be released in such a way that no greater than a six-grade reading level is required, and also that the district does have a population that is illiterate, and many parents do not have good internet access and want to be sure not to get away from old practices. Automated calls were helpful. Be conscious of needs of the community.

Board Member Jonasson Rosas asked for the timeline the Board is expected to receive information with major decisions and 25% threshold codified. Member Jonasson Rosas asked what the thinking is in terms of incentivizing participation or speeding up the process with trainings.

Board Member Thomas requested to track parent attendance at engagement events.

For the record, Superintendent Her, Annarita Howell, Adela Duncan, and Ambra O'Connor were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Levine, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board adopted the Monitoring Reports: Effective Staff and Community Engagement Interim Guardrails, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Clerk Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well. ABSENT: President Davis.

B-2, DISCUSS and ADOPT the Proposed Superintendent Evaluation Tool

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-

2, Discuss and Adopt the Proposed Superintendent Evaluation Tool.

For the record, Board Members provided comments and raised questions regarding agenda item B-2. A summary of Board Member feedback is outlined below:

Board Clerk Islas commented that this is more logical and easier to follow. Clerk Islas is concerned with the timeline and asked if there concrete and robust data will be available to the Board when it is time to complete the evaluation. Member Islas is in favor of looking at an interim evaluation and then a fuller evaluation in November.

Board Member Levine asked if a revision to the time would require a revision to Superintendent Her's employment agreement. Member Levine would support an interim evaluation and then a full evaluation in November and would want the messaging to be clear that the Board will complete the full evaluation in November to allow for a complete set of data to evaluate.

Board Member Cazares thanked staff for their work to align to the Boards goals and guardrails and if the Board agrees would like to propose the Board adopt version 1 of the proposed Superintendent Evaluation Tool.

For the record, Ambra O'Connor and Superintendent Her were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board adopted the Proposed Superintendent Evaluation Tool – Version 1, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Clerk Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well. ABSENT: President Davis.

B-3, PRESENT and DISCUSS Update on the California School Dashboard Local Indicators

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-3, Present and Discuss the Update on the California School Dashboard Local Indicators.

For the record, Board Members provided comments and raised questions regarding agenda item B-3. A summary of Board Member feedback is outlined below:

Board Member Levine asked overall and in specific departments how does this data track historically, is the data seen tonight the standard.

For the record, Maria Mazzoni was available to provide clarity.

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 Thomas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C-10, which was pulled for a Trustee recusal, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Clerk Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well. ABSENT: 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 November 05, 2025.

C-2, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-22, Ordering the Date of the 2025 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Governing Board

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-22, Ordering the Date of the 2025 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Governing Board as December 10, 2025.

C-3, APPROVE Personnel List

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

C-4, APPROVE Meeting Minutes

APPROVED as recommended, the draft minutes for the regular meeting of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education held, November 05, 2025.

C-5, APPROVE Purchase and Sale Agreement with the City of Fresno and Authorize the Superintendent or Designees to Sign the Agreement and Easement Deeds

APPROVED as recommended, information regarding the City of Fresno installation of a High-Intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) Traffic Signal at First and Dovewood Avenues adjacent to Hoover High School. This is to increase safety for students walking or bicycling to school as part of the Cross, Walk & Roll! Safe Routes to School in Central Fresno Project.

C-6, APPROVE Renewal of Agreement with Standard Life Insurance Company

APPROVED as recommended, a renewal agreement with Standard Life Insurance Company for life insurance coverage provided by the district on behalf of its active employees.

C-7, APPROVE Award of Bid 26-12, Early Learning Portable Building Conversion and Site Improvement at 1001 S. Chestnut Ave. Rebid

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 26-12, Early Learning Portable Building Conversion and Site Improvement at 1001 S. Chestnut Ave. Rebid (Former Cambridge Campus). The project will include the installation of new playground equipment, relocation and addition of perimeter fencing, and associated site work. Staff recommend the award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder: Davis Moreno Construction, Inc. (Fresno, California) \$2,674,830.

C-8, APPROVE Award of Bid 26-14, Edison Bethune Charter Academy Shade Structure and Site Improvements

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 26-14, Edison Bethune Charter Academy Shade Structure and Site Improvements. The project consists of installation of a pre-engineered shade structure, concrete improvements, fencing, and miscellaneous Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. Staff recommend the award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder: VARN Painting, Inc. (Tujunga, California) \$380,500.

C-9, APPROVE Award of Bid 26-16, Ahwahnee Middle School Gym Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Upgrade

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 26-16, Ahwahnee Middle School Gymnasium Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Upgrade. This project will upgrade the gymnasium with mechanical cooling. Staff recommend the award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder: New England Sheet Metal and Mechanical Co. (Fresno, California) \$644,900.

C-10, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the projects as follows: Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multipurpose Building and Interim Housing; Bid 24-35, Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization; Bid 24-94 Section B, Sunset Elementary Schools Playground Replacements;

Bid 25-12, Sunnyside High School Chiller Replacements; Bid 25-31, Mayfair Elementary School Playground Replacements; Bid 25-36 Section E, Exterior Painting at Hoover High School; Bid 25-38, Ahwahnee Middle School Walk-In Freezer Replacement; Bid 25-48, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Improvement at Various Sites; Bid 25-50, Tioga Middle School Single Point of Entry and Parking Improvements; Bid 25-56, Kratt Elementary School Chiller Phase 1 Hydronic Lines; and Bid 25-61, Bullard High School Shade Structure Installation.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas recused herself from the vote out of an abundance of caution.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board ratified agenda item C-10 by a vote of 5-0-1-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, and Clerk Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted in favor as well. ABTENTIONS: Board Member Jonasson Rosas. ABSENT: Board President Davis.

C-11, 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 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multipurpose Building and Interim Housing; Bid 24-70, Dishwasher Installation at Various Sites Phase II; Bid 24-94 Section B, Sunset Elementary Schools Playground Replacements; Bid 25-34 Sections A and B, Asphalt Pavement Rehabilitation at Hidalgo and Leavenworth Elementary Schools; Bid 25-36 Section E, Exterior Painting at Hoover High School; and Bid 25-56 Kratt Elementary School Chiller Phase 1 Hydronic Lines.

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 and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. **Kristina Holmes McEntyre** addressed the Board regarding Golden Charter Academy and read an email received from the Chief of Staff of Fresno Unified. Ms. Holmes McEntyre stated feeling disrespected and gaslit.

OPPORTUNITY for Board Member Reflections on the Board Shared Agreements

Member Jonasson Rosas shared the result of this evening's goal monitoring session. The Board did well with submitting questions and participation but saw a dip in scores related to future actions rather than past actions as well as questions delving into tactical issues rather than strategic.

Member Jonasson Rosas encouraged the Board to remain focused, and Member Jonasson Rosas committed to reframing the orientation of the questions before the next monitoring session. The Board received 78% in submitted questions and 77% in goal monitoring questions.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Davis ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:03 p.m.