



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

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

**Fresno, California**  
**January 14, 2026**

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 January 14, 2026, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Wittrup. Superintendent Her was also present as well as Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane.

For the record, Board President Islas participated from the teleconference location as follows: 800 Bethany Drive, Scotts Valley, California 95066, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (b)(2) all action taken during this teleconference meeting was by roll call vote.

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

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas arrived at 4:39 p.m.

Board Clerk Levine CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:31 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

For the record, the Board received two public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individuals name and summary of topic are as follows:

1. Dolores Alcaez commented on the circumstances of interrupted retiree health benefits and shared a personal anecdote of what she and her husband have experienced. Requested the Board to take her experience into consideration when negotiations take place.
2. Emily Brandt commented on health costs and formulas used by insurance companies and requested the Board to appoint an independent senior advocacy body to oversee this process and hold all parties accountable.

## **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 2024/25 Bond Annual Report.

A-2, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Policies – Human Resources.

Board Clerk Levine ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:40 p.m.

For the record, Member Wittrup provided the comment as follows:

“We have got to solve this problem between Aetna and Community. It is not acceptable for our retirees to not have the medical care they need, and I would like this done before people start dying. I really call on our district, Aetna, and Community to exhaust every resource to address this urgently, and I thank everybody for speaking today.”

For the record, Closed Session was extended to 6:15 p.m.

Board Clerk Levine RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:17 p.m.

### **Reporting Out of Closed Session**

Board Member Cazares reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to approve the Renewal of Tolling Agreement with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo for Davis v. Fresno Unified School District, Fresno Superior Court Case No. 12CECG03718, Fifth District Court of Appeals Case Nos. F068477 and F079811, CA Supreme Court Case No. S266344, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Risk Management Settlement for Ignacio Alberto Torres, Jr. v. Fresno Unified School district; Dale Dewayne Spurrier, Claim No. GL24-0821-14236, by a vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, identification number 1072540, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded, by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session to approve charges for dismissal of a certificated employee, identification number 1069142, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

For the record, at this time, Superintendent Her shared the update as follows:

“Good evening to everyone present here tonight and to all those joining us virtually. I just want to take a moment to provide a critical update regarding ongoing contract dispute between Community Medical Centers and Aetna. I know this has affected our retirees greatly and we just want to know that we are working really hard for all of you and we are going to make sure that we stay in this until we get this resolved for you.

I know this has caused a lot of disruptions to your retiree health coverage and so this morning our district team and Fresno Teachers Association (FTA) president Manuel Bonilla met with the community leadership to address these concerns and as a result Community Medical Centers has agreed to an extension of access for retirees covering physician visits and prescription refills through February 20.

We strongly, and I want to say that again, we strongly encourage and urge Community Medical Centers and Aetna to resolve this matter immediately, as quickly as possible and our retirees should never be treated as bargaining chips because they deserve dignity and care. Thank you.”

For the record, Member Cazares read the approved Board Shared Agreements 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, HOLD Public Hearing to DISCUSS and APPROVE the Naming of Edison High School Baseball Field**

For the record, the Board received two public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Hold Public Hearing to Discuss and Approve the Naming of Edison High School Baseball Field. The individual's name with a summary of comments is as follows:

1. Charles Bailey shared the importance of naming the Edison High School Baseball field after the late Dr. James Aldredge.
2. Cynthia L. Sterling spoke to the Board about Dr. Aldredge and advocated for the naming of the Edison High School baseball field in honor of the late Dr. James Aldredge.

For the record, Board Clerk Levine opened the public meeting in the matter of discussing and approving the naming of the Edison High school Baseball Field at 6:28 p.m.

For the record, Clerk Levine closed the public hearing at 6:28 p.m.

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

**Member Thomas** commented that this was a long time coming as it has been in the works for the past three years because a policy was needed to help make great decisions in naming things, and we finally got the policy changed. I am saddened he did not get to see it, but he knew what was happening, which is the best part. At this point I can only pray that God allows me to leave a pinky toe of what he has done for our community and the people of Southwest Fresno.

**Member Cazares** commented on having the honor of meeting Mr. Aldredge when working at the City of Fresno. Cazares added that he not only gave back to schools, and not just in baseball, but he was involved with affordable housing as well, and he taught and mentored people so that they in turn could teach and mentor others, his giving keeps on giving.

**Member Davis** commented that she too would truly miss Dr. Aldredge. Member Davis commented that her parents, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews went to Edison High School.

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

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved naming the Edison High School Baseball Field after the late Dr. James Aldredge, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

**B-2, HOLD a Public Hearing to PRESENT and DISCUSS the Matter of the School of Unlimited Learning Charter Renewal Petition**

For the record, Board Clerk Levine opened the Public Hearing at 6:48 p.m.

For the record, the Board received three (3) public requests to speak on agenda item B-2, Hold a Public Hearing to Present and Discuss the Matter of the School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL) Charter Renewal Petition. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Halle Overton spoke in support of School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL) Charter and shared personal experiences as a student at SOUL.
2. Dr. Laura Goodman, WASC Chairperson, spoke in support of School of Unlimited Learning Charter.
3. Emotwon Anderson, Sr., spoke in support of School of Unlimited Learning Charter.

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

**President Islas** asked if performance data will be provided in advance of the February 25 Board meeting and if so, when. Islas requested clarity as to why goals in mathematics and proficiency rates were not met and what corrective measures the school has in place. Islas requested clarity as to the revenue net if students return to Fresno Unified, and how the district would accommodate the return of those students. President Islas requested clarity as to the number of students attending SOUL that live within district boundaries.

**Member Davis** requested clarity as to SOUL's budget information related to deficient spending and reserves.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** requested clarity as to SOUL's academic performance related to DASS and CAASSP. Requested clarity as to how the school will address deficits in mathematics. Requested clarity as to whether differentiated assistance

is available to students that are non-classroom based. Asked if the school tracks where students go after leaving SOUL.

**Member Thomas** commented on being impressed by SOUL's work and growth. Asked how many students were enrolled in College and Career classes and what grade they begin.

**Clerk Levine** requested the breakdown of students attending SOUL by district feeder patterns.

For the record, Felicia Olais, Dr. Dion Varnado, Steven Lewis, and Patrick Jensen were available to provide clarity.

For the record, Board Clerk Levine closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

### **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 Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C-7, which was pulled for discussion, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

**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 December 17, 2025.

#### **C-2, ADOPT Provisional Internship Permit**

**ADOPTED as recommended**, a Provisional Internship Permit recommendation to rehire or hire upon Board adoption.

- C-3, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Bilingual, Cross-Cultural, Language, and Development Authorization**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, a Variable Term Waiver request for Bilingual, Cross-Cultural, Language, and Development Authorization for the 2025/26 school year.
- C-4, ADOPT Resolutions Delineating Authorized District Agents to Sign on Behalf of Fresno Unified School District**  
**ADOPTED as recommended**, Resolutions 26-42 through 26-48 presented for adoption to update authorized officials to sign various business transactions on behalf of Fresno Unified School District. These resolutions will be effective for the period beginning January 14, 2026, until revoked or superseded.
- C-5, APPROVE Personnel List**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, the personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.
- C-6, APPROVE Meeting Minutes**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, draft minutes of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education from the regular meeting held December 17, 2025.
- C-7, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws**  
**APPROVED as recommended**, proposed revisions for ten Board Bylaws (BB) and two Exhibits (E) as follows: E 9000 Role of the Board (NEW); BB 9005 Governance Standards; BB 9010 Public Statements; BB 9011 Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information; BB 9012 Board Member Electronic Communications; BB 9250 Remuneration, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits; BB 9315 Board Policy Waivers; BB 9320 Meetings and Notices; BB 9320.1 Board Workshops; BB 9323.2 Actions by the Board; E 9323.2 Actions Requiring a Super Majority Vote; and BB 9323.3 Complaints Concerning Board Members.

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

**Member Jonasson Rosas** referenced Board Bylaw 9010 and requested the Board Bylaw committee to add more specificity to how a public statement is authorized to be made. Asked how a Board president or superintendent would know if a specific issue is authorized to be made by a Board member.

Jonasson Rosas added it could be a matter in which the Board has expressed their intent by action of a Board vote as defined in another bylaw, that way it would be clear to everyone what the Board has expressed as their intent.

**Member Cazares** commented that at times while in Closed Session the Board will come to a consensus on an item and asked if that could be added to Member Jonasson Rosas's request.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** agreed with Member Cazares request as long as the topic was legally permissible to be discussed. Jonasson Rosas commented that her request for the amendment to BB 9010 is to clarify that there is a consensus or direction the Board has given.

Member Jonasson Rosas motioned that specificity and Board action is later clarified in Board Bylaw 9010 slated for approval on this agenda as well as Member Cazares's suggestion of an issue the Board has otherwise specified as their direction through consensus.

**President Islas** raised a concern that a times an issue will arise and there is no time to convene as a Board, but a direct response may be needed and asked how such a circumstance could be managed.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** responded that individual Board members could make statements, but it is understood that those statements are not on behalf of the governing Board.

**President Islas** requested it be added to the Bylaw that Board members speaking on their own behalf do not require the Board's approval.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** clarified that she is only addressing the first half of the Bylaw that references making statements on behalf of the Board and when it applies to the Superintendent or district staff making comments on behalf of the Board, not the second half addressing statements by individual Board members.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented on having expressed a desire to have the process more streamlined but at this time it is not the direction of the Board and is a separate matter; those statements by individual Board members are addressed in the second half of the Bylaw of which Jonasson Rosas does not propose a revision.

Member Jonasson Rosas clarified her request is to add language to the Bylaw to ensure that statements made on behalf of the governing Board reflect an action or consensus that the governing Board has agreed upon taking.

**Member Cazares** commented that in the past when there is a need for a public comment that is not a result of action by the Board, the Superintendent has reached out to Board members and gained consent and Cazares sees that continuing.

**Clerk Levine** referenced Board Bylaw 9250 and commented on a recent state law passed which allows school district boards to vote to increase the amount of their stipends dependent on district enrollment. Member Levine requested clarity as to what amount Fresno Unified qualifies.

Member Levine commented that although the law recently took effect, it does not say that each state's Board will set the full amount but is allowing for up to a certain amount at any time, and as a member of the Board Bylaw subcommittee Member Levine wanted the item opened for discussion.

Member Levine commented on fully supporting the spirit behind the law, to ensure Board members have the capacity to be fully committed for all things they are expected to do by their voters in their rolls as Board members, but the reality is we are in a time operating under a budget deficit and in the next few months will be making difficult decisions. Member Levine shared the concern of acting on this item while in this current budget moment.

Member Levine motioned to allow for the Board to take the stipend amount allowed but only when the district is operating under a balanced budget.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** asked if this was needed as the Board is already allowed.

**Member Wittrup** requested clarity as to the current stipend amount received by Board members.

**Member Cazares** requested clarity as to what the Board was voting on related to this item, and asked if dollar amounts, dates, changes, or implementation would be brought back for consideration. Member Cazares asked if the Board approved changes to Board Bylaw 9250 as is, if the stipend would automatically be increased.

**Member Wittrup** requested clarity as to whether the changes would take place at the next term and asked whether it was specified in Education Code. Member Wittrup asked how the item would have been implemented if it had not been pulled for discussion.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented that the proposed revision uses the word, "may" and asked if a trigger would be needed as Jonasson Rosas interprets "may" to be a decision that would have to take place in the budget.

**Member Wittrup** asked what colleagues at the city council or board of supervisors make.

**Member Levine** repeated his motion to authorize board member compensation to increase to the allowable amount under the new state law only at a time that the Board has reached a balanced budget.

**Member Cazares** asked if the district has ever functioned without a balanced budget.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** asked, so for clarity you are looking to have an automatic trigger, does that have to be specified in a bylaw or can it be a direction to staff because it says “may”. Jonasson Rosas commented that her interpretation is the Board can give direction to staff to not implement until there is a rosier budget picture and commented that a rosier budget picture is a subjective term for a future meeting and a future budget discussion.

**Member Thomas** commented that there was a time when the budget was not good and there was no reserve and Trustee Mills and Trustee Davis decided not to have a stipend increase ever, then a few years ago the Board decided for the annual 5% increase. Member Thomas commented that if a Board member does not want the increase, then they do not need to take it, but she works hard, every Board receives a stipend, and she does not want anyone to minimize her opportunities.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** spoke for herself in that she was not thinking this was an automatic trigger but just codifying what state law was.

Member Jonasson Rosas moved forward with her motion and commented on being okay with direction to staff and commented that maybe the Board could have this conversation during budget discussions as she did not know if Board members were prepared to have this conversation now and she knows the Board has significant concerns about the budget.

Jonasson Rosas commented that if there is a majority of the Board that would like to go in that direction and if there are others that do not, this at least allows each member to make the decision they need to make.

**Member Wittrup** commented on understanding this came through ed code and was supported in Sacramento and is seen more of an adjustment than a raise. Member Wittrup commented that ed code has not changed board compensation in many years and knows that this Board is engaged and working hard and this is really not full compensation, it is an adjustment to something that was decided years ago, and inflation has had an impact.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** commented that the Board forewent raises for many years and does not disagree with Member Wittrup’s comments.

**Member Cazares** recommended leaving the item as is with the implications as identified by staff and if the Board would like to revisit during the budget season, they may revisit during budget season.

**Member Jonasson Rosas** restated her motion as follows: Proceed as is, keep the language as is, and if the Board would like to revisit at the time of the budget, then the Board will revisit at the time of the budget.

For the record, Ambra O'Connor, Patrick Jensen, and Mark T. Harris were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item C7, Approve Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws with amendments to Board Bylaws 9010 and 9250, by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well. NOES: Board Clerk Levine.

**C-8, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies**

**APPROVED as recommended**, proposed revisions for six Board Policies (BP) as follows: BP 0410 Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities; BP 1265 Civility Policy; BP 3515 School Safety and Security; BP 5141.4 Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting; BP 5141.7 Sun Safety (NEW); and BP 5142 Safety.

**C-9, APPROVE 2024/25 and 2025/26 Classified Y-Rated Salary Schedules**

**APPROVED as recommended**, the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Classified Y-Rated Salary Schedules. The revised salary schedules are brought for approval to provide a publicly available Board approved salary schedule as required by CalSTRS and CalPERS regulations.

**C-10, APPROVE Grant Application to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing - 2025 Teacher Residency Expansion Grant**

**APPROVED as recommended**, a request to write the grant application to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing - 2025 Teacher Residency Expansion Grant.

**C-11, RATIFY Revised Academic Calendar 2025/26**

**RATIFIED as recommended**, a revised Academic Calendar designating December 26, 2025, as a federal holiday. This item is being brought forward for ratification because the Executive Order designating December 24 and 26 as federal holidays was signed on December 18, 2025.

**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. Elizabeth Robledo thanked the Board regarding recent developments related to retiree health care.

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

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Clerk Levine ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:54 p.m.