



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
January 28, 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 28, 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.

Board President Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Chavez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 as follows:

A-1, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Policies – Constituent Services.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 5:49 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Board Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded, by Board Member Thomas, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny a claim for a Minor, Claim No. GL25-0821-14984, 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 Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, identification number 1086797, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, identification number 1079902, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0: 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 Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, identification number 108263, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

For the record, Clerk Levine 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, DISCUSS and ACCEPT Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report – January 2026

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Discuss and Accept Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring – January 2026.

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 Thomas asked how the district will support teachers in differentiated instruction while facing a reduced budget. Member Thomas commented on using resources already on campus and rotating, similar to how ELD classes are operated. Expressed appreciation for the presentation by Principal Kevin Her and Vice Principal Robin Snowden, Ed.D., of Kirk Elementary School and asked what it looks like to share at other sites so other sites may gain the same success as Kirk Elementary School.

Member Wittrup thanked staff for the presentation and the small group meetings. Referenced conversations on how the district can move away from placing students with disabilities into one large group and to refine and adjust placements. Commented on instruction and conditions students with special needs receive; specifically, improper placements. This is an area that needs quick, urgent attention to remedy and does not cost the district more money to fix but rather costs more money when not fixed.

Member Wittrup asked if the district has considered listing, by school, the number of special education evaluations and the number of students that were eligible and number of students that were not eligible. This will show the health of the interventions and the student study process at the school. Member Wittrup offered the above observations for the district to consider.

Member Wittrup urged district staff to look at conditions and begin addressing then instruction will be more effective.

Member Cazares expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear from the principals of Kirk and Homan Elementary Schools, commented that similar language was used in each presentation such as not data driven but data informed, addressing learning gaps early, and keeping finger on the data.

Member Cazares expressed an interest to hear from Superintendent Her how the district can address learning gaps early if there is a model at Kirk that could be implemented district wide.

Member Cazares commented that Homan Elementary referenced having more than one system in place for progress monitoring; and again, asked how to implement at other schools.

Member Cazares commented on addressing the needs of the district's homeless students and seeing a significant reduction in funding for housing; therefore, investments are more important than in the past. Member Cazares requested data on strategies to help stabilize unhoused students and asked staff to reach out to other districts that are helping with unhoused students.

Member Davis thanked staff for the data and showing the stretch growth. Commented on the need to dig deeper into the data as there are two schools from different areas of Fresno showing improvement, and the ability to see what is on track, what is not on track, is powerful. Member Davis asked if all parents are aware of the interactions and safety nets being provided to students by the district.

Clerk Levine thanked Member Cazares for mentioning the housing partnerships for unhoused students and families and being excited to see how the district can expand on the model. Clerk Levine referenced Equitable Access Guardrail 1 and asked when going forward will there be analysis or actions for duplicated students.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked how increases of enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten are affecting our data and how do we think they will affect our data going forward. In these goals we are measuring growth with different compositions of kids what is the current conversation around additional real-time kid-specific assessments.

President Islas expressed appreciation for the honesty and thoughtful assessment. Referenced struggles in the past with professional learning and negotiations, and commented this is an area the teacher's union would like to see a budget reduction and asked if the district has considered a strategy on how to build a partnership to help align the uptake of curriculum and allow for consistency in implementation.

President Islas commented that with budget and resources often we see great assets offered by community partners and referenced a program at Birney Elementary School with Ampact. President Islas commented on being curious whether the district is looking at community partners that are doing well and the district would like to continue the partnership.

President Islas commented that the district is faced with making difficult decisions, budget cuts to programs that while being fun may not align with the district goals and guardrails, there will be hard decisions to make and President Islas would like the people to be prepared it will not be easy, but if we want to see changes in the indicators we have to align budget with commitments to achieve those goals.

For the record, Superintendent Her, Kevin Her and Robin Snowden, Ed.D., of Kirk Elementary School, Peggy Harrison Principal of Homan Elementary School, Abraham Olivares, and Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Davis, the Board accepted the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report -January 2026, 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, CONDUCT and APPROVE the Board Quarterly Self-Evaluation

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-2, Conduct and Approve the Board Quarterly Self-Evaluation.

For the record, Clerk Levine facilitated the discussion.

For the record, President Islas asked the Board to consider providing time on an agenda for the board to review the Board Guardrails.

Clerk Levine thanked Board colleagues for engaging in the discussion and thanked the public for listening.

Clerk Levine requested the public to let the Board know if they have questions or need clarification as the Board moves through this process. Clerk Levine commented the Board is trying to model their transparency and to make the process as clear as possible.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Board Quarterly Self-Evaluation, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

B-3, HOLD a Public Hearing to DISCUSS and APPROVE the Endeavor Charter School Request for Material Revision, and to ADOPT Resolution No. 26-49, Certifying Approval of Material Revision

For the record, Board President Islas opened the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

For the record, the Board received one (1) public request to speak on agenda item B-3, Hold a Public Hearing to Discuss and Approve the Endeavor Charter School Request for Material Revision, and to Adopt Resolution No. 26-49, Certifying Approval of Material Revision. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Larry Powell spoke in support of the material revision of Endeavor Charter School.

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

Member Thomas commented on doing research and commended Endeavor for being courageous in bringing forward their request for material revision. Member Thomas commented that anything done for students for the betterment of their social-emotional health and their education is something to stand by.

Member Wittrup commented on being excited about Endeavor Charter School and while visiting Endeavor saw high quality instruction and student engagement, saw a high staff to student ratio, and saw an environment of support for students. During the visit, Member Wittrup spoke with a knowledgeable special education director and saw a school psychologist at work as well as the use of respected community contractors. Wittrup commented that overall, the facilities and environment were incredibly welcoming and inviting.

Clerk Levine thanked Endeavor staff for sending requested information. Commented that under 40% of Endeavor students are from Fresno Unified boundaries.

Clerk Levine commented on wrestling with whether it makes sense during the present budget situation for Fresno Unified to be the charter authorizer rather than the county.

Clerk Levine directed a question to charter counsel and asked what the legal obligations as a charter authorizer are when considering a material revision request related to a waiting list.

President Islas asked if there was a specific reason Endeavor Charter School wanted to be authorized under the district. President Islas asked what specifically Endeavor offers students that Fresno Unified does not. President Islas requested clarity on the financial summary.

Student Member Souksamlane asked if there is there a cap on the fiscal impact and if approved is Fresno Unified then committed to paying the escalated cost for next three years. If other charter schools request material revisions will Fresno Unified be able to absorb the fiscal impact.

President Islas requested clarity on the potential loss of revenue.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity on the finances and asked if the assumption of financial analysis is based on the proportion that all the students are Fresno Unified students. Member Jonasson Rosas asked if it is known from the wait list the number of students enrolled in Fresno Unified School District.

Member Davis commented that Fresno Unified is the authorizing school district and has a joint charter with Dailey Charter School and asked why the state will not recognize all the charter schools authorized by Fresno Unified as part of the district and give the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) to Fresno Unified.

For the record, Felicia Olais, Davina Hardin, Patrick Jensen, and Endeavor staff as follows: Michael Cox, Executive Director, Nancy Garcia, Principal, Jody Jeffers, Chief Business Officer, and Katelyn Carter, Special Education Coordinator, were available to provide clarity.

For the record, Board President Islas closed the Public Hearing at 7:57 p.m.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board approved the Endeavor Charter School Request for Material Revision and Adopted Resolution No. 26-49 by a roll call vote of 5-2-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, and Wittrup. NOES: Clerk Levine, and Board President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted no as well.

B-4, PRESENT and DISCUSS Overview of the Governor's 2026/27 Proposed State Budget

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-4, Present and Discuss Overview of the Governor's 2026/27 Proposed State Budget.

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 Cazares shared a concern about using the Learning Recovery Block Grant for the early retirement program and requested clarity as to how learning recovery for students relates to allowing adults to retire. Member Cazares commented that as a trustee it feels wrong to use Learning Recovery Block Grant resources for PARS savings.

Referenced slide No. 14 and requested clarity as to why the slide reflects the deep dip in ADA. Member Cazares requested further information on ADA projections.

Member Cazares commented on hearing that part of the issue is the district has funded permanent support with temporary funds. Member Cazares commented that as a Board member she does not remember a time when it was made clear to her that that was what the district was doing and further commented on feeling that the Board gave directions to make sure the district did not fund permanent staff and permanent programs with temporary funds. Member Cazares wants to make sure it never happens again and commented that this Board would not consciously approve using temporary funds on permanent programs.

Member Thomas asked if the Governor is holding back or borrowing from what is owed to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and asked if this is lawful, and if not, what can be done?

Member Davis requested clarity on special education enrollment and funding.

Member Thomas commented that the district has funded things that are supposed to be temporary and asked for the time left on the community school's grant. Member Thomas commented we must be sure the community understands this could go away.

For the record, Patrick Jensen 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 Davis, seconded by Board Member Wittrup, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of C-2 pulled for further discussion and C15 pulled for Board member recusal, 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 January 14, 2026.

C-2, APPROVE the Board of Education Time Use Evaluation

APPROVED as recommended, the time use evaluation for October 2025 through December 2025.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that Fresno Unified is a large district and the template for Student Outcomes Focused Governance is intended to be broadly applicable but feels there are areas not applicable to the State of California. Member Jonasson Rosas provided the example of the time study and put forth for Board consideration that time spent discussing monitoring and evaluation during small group sessions be reflected in the time use evaluation.

Member Cazares offered to reach out to Sue Deigaard and Greg Klein the Board coaches with the Council of the Great City Schools to see how to adapt Member Jonasson Rosa's request.

On a motion by Board Member Joansson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board approved agenda item C-2 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.

C-3, APPROVE Personnel List

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

C-4, APPROVE Meeting Minutes

APPROVED as recommended, draft minutes of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education from the regular meeting held January 14, 2026.

C-5, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies – Human Resources

APPROVED as recommended, proposed revisions for two Board Policies (BP) as follows: BP 4217.3 Layoff/Rehire and BP4317.3 Personnel Reduction (Layoff/Rehire).

- C-6, APPROVE Budget Revision No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2025/26**
APPROVED as recommended, Budget Revision No. 2 for fiscal year 2025/26. Periodic updates to the district's budget are presented to the Board of Education for approval. Budget Revision No. 2 includes adjustments for updated information regarding carryover, actual beginning balances, and necessary adjustments to support the acceptance of various grant awards.
- C-7, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-62 and APPROVE Agreement for the Public Agency Retirement System Trust for Defined Benefit Plan**
APPROVED as recommended, a resolution and agreement for Public Agency Retirement System Trust (PARS) to manage the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for the District's part-time employees. The resolution will authorize the amendment and restatement of the district's current plan. Adopt the Public Agency Retirement System Trust by its official name as the qualified trust program for the Plan, including the amended and restated Plan. Appoint the PARS as the Trust Administrator of the Plan and U.S. Bank N.A. as trustee and custodian of Plan assets (Trustee). Will appoint Deputy Executive of the Payroll & Benefits Department as Plan Administrator to execute legal and administrative documents and authorize the transfer of the district plan assets to the PARS Trust.
- C-8, APPROVE 2025/26 Salary Schedule Revisions Reflecting Minimum Wage Increase**
APPROVED as recommended, the 2025/26 revised salary schedules reflecting minimum wage increase as follows: 2025/26 Classified Hourly Minimum Wage Salary Schedule, and 2025/26 Supplemental Services Salary Schedule (Minimum Wage Rates).
- C-9, APPROVE Grant Application Submission to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program**
APPROVED as recommended, a request to submit a grant application to the 2026/27 Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program (FFVP) through the California Department of Education. The FFVP provides funding to support daily fresh fruit and vegetable snacks for students at participating elementary and K-8 schools.
- C-10, APPROVE Grant Application Submission to the 2025 Kitchen Infrastructure and Training Grant and Retention and Recruitment Grant**
APPROVED as recommended, a request to submit a grant application to the 2025 Kitchen Infrastructure and Training (KIT) Grant and Retention and Recruitment (R&R) Grant.

C-11, RATIFY Grant Applications for the After School Education and Safety Program - Round Two

RATIFIED as recommended, the After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) Universal Applications - Round Two submitted to the California Department of Education, seeking up to \$208,146 in supplemental funding. The funding would support seventeen elementary school ASES sites identified as large-enrollment schools based on 2024/25 enrollment data. If awarded, the funds will be used to strengthen program quality, expand access to expanded learning opportunities, and increase instructional, and enrichment supports that promote student achievement and overall well-being.

C-12, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the following projects: Bid 23-09, Sunnyside High School New Career Technical Education Health Science Building; Bid 23-33, Del Mar Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building; Bid 25-22, Terronez Middle School Kitchen and Locker Room Make-up Air Unit Replacements; Bid 25-33, Kratt Elementary School Playground Replacement; Bid 25-37, Gibson and Mayfair Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Energy Management System Replacements; and Bid 25-44, Farber Educational Center South Building A Parking Lot Improvements.

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. The projects are as follows: Bid 23-09, Sunnyside High School New Career Technical Education Health Science Building; Bid 25-22, Terronez Middle School Kitchen and Locker Room Make-up Air Unit Replacements; Bid 25-33, Kratt Elementary School Playground Replacement; Bid 25-38, Ahwahnee Middle School Walk-In Freezer Replacement; Bid 25-44, Farber Educational Center South Building A Parking Lot Improvements; and Bid 25-49, Ericson Elementary School Energy Management System Replacement.

C-14, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2025, through October 31, 2025 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2025, through October 31, 2025. 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 apart from 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-15, RATIFY Purchase Orders from October 01, 2025, through October 31, 2025 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from October 01, 2025, through October 31, 2025. 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 apart from 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.

For the record, Clerk Levine read the statement as follows:

“Agenda item C-15 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, the CSUF Fresno Foundation, California State University, Fresno, the CSUF Association Food Services, the CSUF Foundation, the CSUF/Association 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 President Islas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item C15, by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well. ABSTENTIONS: Board Clerk Levine.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received two (2) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual’s name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Jason Stansell commented on stipends.
2. Elizabeth Robledo commented on the need for retiree advocacy. Proposed to leverage organizations.
3. Monica Snowden commented on the district’s appropriation of children’s intellectual properties without support for employment or respect.

OPPORTUNITY for Board Member Reflections on the Board Shared Agreements

Member Jonasson Rosas reported that during this monitoring session, the Board had good discussions and questions. The submitted questions responded to in the email received a score of 76% which is understandable because clarifying questions are being asked.

Member Jonasson Rosas reported the monitoring session discussion received a score of 83% as a lot of the questions asked were about the future, what are we doing in the future versus what happened in the past and that brought the score down, as well as less open-ended questions.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented there are things in the spreadsheet that she would like the Board to look at and revisit with the coaches. One aspect to revisit is the idea of no advice or opinions.

Member Jonasson Rosas believes that each Board member has insight that they are supposed to bring from the community and from their own lived experience and limiting the Board very much, constrains us to the point where the Board cannot ever earn all the maximum points if they dare utter advice. Member Jonasson Rosas commented that not only is this a disservice to the community of Fresno but to the organization.

Member Jonasson Rosas proposed that the Board talk with the coaches to discuss if the matrix has flexibility. Member Jonasson Rosas commented that there are things on the matrix that if implemented with full fidelity, trying to accomplish all the points, would be detrimental and would go against what the Board is trying to do.

Member Wittrup asked if the Board should adjust the matrix to fit the Board's needs.

Member Davis commented on time management and would like the community to understand the process.

Student Member Mayes thanked district staff for all they do and invited all district staff to the Sunnyside High School Cultural Diversity Assembly, at 11:02 a.m. Friday, January 30, 2026.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 9:01 p.m.