



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 25, 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 February 25, 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 4:33 p.m.

Board President Islas shared that Trustees Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, and Wittrup requested to take part in the meeting via teleconferencing based on “Just Cause” under Government Code Section 54953, Subdivision (e)(2)(A)(i).

Trustees Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, and Wittrup provided brief, general reasons for their requests, and confirmed there were no individuals over the age of eighteen at Trustee Jonasson Rosas’, Thomas’s, or Wittrup’s remote locations.

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

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

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

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved Trustee Jonasson Rosas to take part via teleconference 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Superintendent, Ben A. Drati, Ed.D., led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received thirty-three (33) public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

Manual Bonilla, Marissa Rodriguez, Eldrick Chang, Chrysann Johnson, Copper Williams, Priscilla, Ezekiel Camargo, Elizabeth Bushman Tokarczuk, Mai C. Xiong, Mike Yates, Pavour Vang, Rolando Yang, Curtis Carlton, Debbie Acosta, Troy Barnette, Amy Ward, Michelle Maher, Lee Khan, Yovanni Romero, Mylena Santana Bailey, Katelyn Sievers, Laura Silva, Betty Montez, Anna Marie Ronquillo Grisby, Jennifer Kenyon, Jearim Tovar, Renee White, Mary Milan, Reyna Barajas Cazares, Anna Lopez-Ruelas, Christine Silva, Kasey Oliver, Dr. Deshaunna Ricks.

Mai Xiong was not present when Board Clerk called name. Pavour Vang ceded time to Rolando Yang. Jearim Tovar ceded time to George Pineda. (George Pineda was not on the list of public speakers.) Renee White ceded time to Mary Milan. Reyna Barajas Cazares ceded time to Mary Milan.

Common themes arose by the thirty-three public speakers. The most frequent concern was a request for Board members to collaborate with labor partners and reconsider the district's approach to addressing the budget deficit and proposed position eliminations. Speakers urged the Board to consider the long-term impact that reducing certificated and classified positions may have on students, families, and the community.

Many of the speakers shared personal anecdotes of their experiences working as district employees.

Other concerns shared are as follows:

- Inflated administrative salaries appear disproportionate and require further justification.
- The overall number of central office administrators, considering the proposed reductions to site-level positions.
- The volume of consultant agreements and associated costs.
- Payments owed to school sites delayed by the central office, creating operational and financial challenges.
- Board members raising their monthly stipends while considering program eliminations and employee layoffs raises questions about priorities.
- Cutting counselor positions may significantly affect foster youth and students experiencing homelessness, who rely heavily on these supports.

- Reducing or eliminating highly qualified credentialed professionals—including PLUS teachers, counselors, preschool teachers, teacher librarians, library media technicians, and job developers—may adversely affect student achievement and access to essential services.
- Concerns raised regarding whether the district is adhering to its own guardrails, particularly related to community engagement prior to considering cuts to counseling positions.
- There is growing frustration about the alignment between job duties and compensation, as well as beliefs that taxpayers are effectively paying twice for certain administrative and consultant functions.
- A request for a clear explanation of how the Board’s decisions align with its stated vision of supporting and valuing students, families, and staff.
- Balancing the district’s budget through reductions to frontline workers who directly serve students is inequitable.
- A request that Board members be transparent about the nature of their decisions, emphasizing that the vote stands for a values-based choice with real consequences for students and staff.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of agenda items A-1 through A-3 as follows:

A-1, Receive the Fresno Unified School District Second Quarterly Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2025/26.

A-2, RECEIVE Constituent Services Quarterly Reporting.

A-3, RECEIVE California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Corrected Ballot Packet for Region/subregion 10B.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:22 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session extended to 7:25 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:24 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny a claim for Emily Brandt, Claim No. GL26-0101-16640, 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 Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny a claim for Lynisha Moore, Claim No. GL26-0114-16548, 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 Thomas, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny a claim for Jesus Morris Esquivel, Claim No. GL25-0122-16631, 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 Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny a claim for Minor, Claim No. GL25-0908-16637, 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, Member 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 AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-1, DISCUSS and ACCEPT the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report - February 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 – February 2026.

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

Clerk Levine thanked the student leaders for attending the meeting and sharing their insights with the Board. Asked how the district plans to use CALKIDS as a tool to support the development of the college and career readiness plan for elementary students.

Member Wittrup thanked the staff and students from Sunnyside for their presentation. Asked how the district can ensure that a decrease in Ds and Fs is not a result of lowered grading standards.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked how the district is comparing the level of investment with the outcome. Jonasson Rosas commented that the district's investment in the IB Program, yielding twenty students graduating, from what she believes is a multi-million-dollar investment particularly stands out to Member Jonasson Rosas.

Member Jonasson Rosas referenced other organizations that work with district students by providing job training opportunities and internships, including those not directly affiliated with the district, and asked if the district is capturing data from these partnerships.

Member Cazares thanked the Sunnyside students for their presentation and commented on the benefits of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. Provided a personal anecdote related to evidence-based grading and expressed hope that evidence-based grading will expand district-wide.

Member Cazares noted that in classes where teachers are implementing evidence-based grading, her student has experienced increased agency in setting and working towards personal goals. Member Cazares encouraged staff to notify parents at the progress report stage when a student who typically earns As and Bs drops into the Ds and Fs range.

Member Davis asked the Sunnyside students what plans they have for the future.

Member Thomas asked if we could cut red tape so students who cannot be in the field can still be in a controlled work area gaining genuine experience.

Member Thomas commented on the work done by job developers to get students into job experience programs and asked if the district cuts the job developer position what will happen, does the district have a plan to help students continue to be successful.

Member Thomas commented that when you give people extra work you need to take something away. Member Thomas encouraged district staff to think about ways to avoid overworking employees.

Student Member Souksamlane expressed gratitude to Sunnyside High School for the work done and commented it is genuinely impressive. Souksamlane commented on knowing Sunnyside had amazing programs and hearing from students and classmates is surreal. Member Souksamlane commented on being proud to serve such a bright cohort of future oriented students.

Member Cazares asked how decisions are made that are student focused and not adult barrier focused, specifically related to the Master Schedule; knowing that flexibility is needed if more Career Technical Education apprenticeship classes are added, knowing that what was done in the past will not help the district reach its student outcomes focused goals.

Student Member Mayes expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to those present from Sunnyside High School that took part in the presentation.

President Islas expressed gratitude and thanks for the magnificent example of excellence produced at Sunnyside High School.

Member Jonasson Rosas reminded the Board that all trustees must take part with questions to receive all points.

For the record, Superintendent Her, Michelle Anderson, Principal, Kim Cooper, Counselor, and students Xavier Casey, Moncajacna “Kimchi” Mian, and Alyssa Rodriguez of Sunnyside High School were available to provide clarity. As well as Carlos Castillo, Ed.D.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board accepted the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report - February 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, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Local Control and Accountability Plan Mid-Year Report

For the record, the Board received one (1) public request to speak on agenda item B-2, Present and Discuss the Local Control and Accountability Plan Mid-Year Report. The individual’s name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Kristine Holmes McIntyre referenced the Local Control and Accountability Plan Mid-Year Report and commented that the data presented revealed gaps between the district narrative on equity and the reality of student readiness.

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

Clerk Levine requested clarity specifically related to the equity multiplier, the gap between the district's adopted budget and the first interim.

Clerk Levine commented that the funds are assigned by the state on a school-by-school basis and a frustration of the district is the threshold set by the state and many schools are just on the cuff of the threshold, and from year to year some schools make it in and others drop off.

President Islas requested clarity as to if there are restrictions on the use of the funds.

For the record, Ashlee Chiarito, Ed.D., and Patrick Jensen were available to provide clarity.

B-3, HOLD a Public Hearing to DISCUSS and APPROVE the School of Unlimited Learning Charter Renewal Petition and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-50, Certifying Approval of the Renewal Petition

For the record, Board President Islas opened the Public Hearing at 8:58 p.m.

For the record, the Board received zero public requests to speak on agenda item B-3, Hold a Public Hearing to Discuss and Approve the School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL) Charter Renewal Petition, and to Adopt Resolution No. 26-50, Certifying Approval of the Renewal Petition.

For the record, Felicia Olais, Davina Hardin, Sean Virnig, Ed.D., Dion Varnado, Ed.D., and Steven Lewis were available to provide clarity.

For the record, Board President Islas closed the Public Hearing at 7:58 p.m.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved the School of Unlimited Learning Charter Renewal Petition and Adopted Resolution No. 26-50 by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and Clerk Levine. NOES: Board President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

B-4, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Proposed Academic Calendars for School Years 2026/27 and 2027/28

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-4, Discuss and Approve the Proposed Academic Calendars for School Years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

For the record, Marie Williams, Ed.D., was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved the Proposed Academic Calendars for School Years 2026/27 and 2027/28, 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-5, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Fresno Teachers Association Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2026-2029 Successor Agreement

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-5, Discuss and Approve the Fresno Teachers Association Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2026/2029 Successor Agreement.

For the record, Annarita Howell was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved the Fresno Teachers Association Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2026-2029 successor Agreement, 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-6, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to Fresno Teachers Association for the 2026-2029 Successor Agreement

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-6, Discuss and Approve the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to Fresno Teachers Association for the 2026-2029 Successor Agreement.

For the record, Annarita Howell was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to the Fresno Teachers Association for the 2026-2029 successor Agreement, 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-7, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-55, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2020, Series D, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$60,000,000, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-7, Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 26-55, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2020, Series D, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$60,000,000, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto.

For the record, Paul Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-55, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2020, Series D, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$60,000,000, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto, 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-8, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-56, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2024, Series B, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$30,000,000, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-8, Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 26-56, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2024, Series B, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$30,000,000, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto.

For the record, Paul Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-56, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2024, Series B, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$30,000,000, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto, 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-9, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-57, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of 2026 Refunding General Obligation Bonds to Refund Outstanding General Obligation Bonds and Refunding General Obligation Bonds, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Related Escrow Agreements, Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-9, Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 26-57, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of 2026 Refunding General Obligation Bonds to Refund Outstanding General Obligation Bonds and Refunding General Obligation Bonds, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Related Escrow Agreements, Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto.

For the record, Paul Idsvoog was available to provide clarity and shared that savings to the district from this item are in the approximate amount of \$5 million.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-57, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of 2026 Refunding General Obligation Bonds to Refund Outstanding General Obligation Bonds and Refunding General Obligation Bonds, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Related Escrow Agreements, Bond Purchase Agreement and Official Statement, and Approving Documents and Official Actions Relating Thereto, 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-10, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-58, Authorizing Debt Service Information to be Provided to the County of Fresno Respecting Unsold General Obligation Bonds of the Fresno Unified School District for Fiscal Year 2026/27

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-10, Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 26-58, Authorizing Debt Service Information to be Provided to the County of Fresno Respecting Unsold General Obligation Bonds of the Fresno Unified School District for Fiscal Year 2026/27.

For the record, Paul Idsvoog was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-58, Authorizing Debt Service Information to be Provided to the County of Fresno Respecting Unsold General Obligation Bonds of the Fresno Unified School District for Fiscal Year 2026/27, 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-11, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-59, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Discontinue Particular Classified Services for 2026/27

For the record, the Board received eight (8) public requests to speak on agenda item B-11, Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 26-59, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Discontinue Particular Classified Services for 2026/27. The individuals' names with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Daniel Alvarado spoke in support of thinking creatively to finding alternative solutions when facing budget cuts.
2. Anoy Gonzalez "Gonzo" of the value of campus safety assistant positions.
3. Felipe Avila spoke on the fear felt when facing job cuts.
4. Fifi Sanchez requested the Board to consider the impact that potential layoffs will have on employees.
5. Christine Silva shared concern about the institutional knowledge that the district will lose with the retiree incentive offered.
6. Shannon Lucio shared concerns of students and reporting they feel overwhelmed and the emotional ecosystem of the district stretching to the breaking point.
7. Amy Ward provided examples of how necessary library media technicians are to students and the district.
8. Julie Adams was not present when Board Clerk called name.

For the record, David Chavez and Annarita Howell were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Wittrup, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-59, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Discontinue Particular Classified Services for 2026/27, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSENT: Member Jonasson Rosas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted no.

B-12, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution 26-60, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Certificated Services for 2026/27

For the record, the Board received four (4) public requests to speak on agenda item B-12, Discuss and Adopt Resolution 26-60, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Certificated Services for 2026/27. The individual's names with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Brianna Smith spoke in support of educators and asked what budget cuts say of how the district values its people.
2. Morgan Conner was not present when Board Clerk called name.
3. AJ Pipkin commented on not knowing why any person would have to stand up and argue their relevance and benefit to school sites and why the first thing seen when there is a budget deficit is cuts to student support while district administration has grown by 51% in the last five years.
4. Tamara Smith was not present when Board Clerk called name.

For the record, Board Members provided comments and raised questions about agenda item B-12. A summary of Board Member feedback is below:

Student Member Souksamlane commented on seeing firsthand how vital these individuals are to the daily functioning of our schools. People that support student learning and keep campuses running and build relationships with students that make students feel safe and supported.

Student Member Souksamlane commented that the Board has a responsibility to ensure the long-term financial stability of our district and understands these decisions are to prevent deeper cuts in the future; but also wants to recognize the real and difficult budget constraints the district is facing. Declining enrollment, rising operational costs, and reduced funding have placed us in a position where there are no easy choices to make. However, it is our responsibility to move forward with transparency and compassion and a clear plan to minimize the impact on our students, our staff, and faculty.

Student Member Souksamlane commented as a point of order that the Board continue to explore every practical possibility to reduce the number of layoffs, support displaced employees, and to ensure budget cuts do not severely affect services to students.

Member Cazares shared that the Board does value each staff member and acknowledged that this is a difficult season not only for the district but for many districts across California. Member Cazares noted that this is a challenging year for the entire educational system, and that none of the decisions related to job cuts are easy.

Member Cazares shared that her three children are Fresno Unified students, supported fully by district staff, and contributions of staff have helped shape them into valuable citizens of the Central Valley.

Member Cazares emphasized appreciation for staff as individuals and as professionals and affirmed that while the Board is making tough decisions, they are working to ensure the least possible impact on students and staff, even as certain actions are still necessary.

Member Cazares asked David Chavez to explain why this item cannot be tabled.

Student Member Mayes commented that staff across our entire district are facing tremendous challenges. Hearing about potential layoffs is hard enough but it is even more heartbreaking knowing that staff members may struggle to provide for their families, put food on the table, pay bills, and keep their homes secure. These are real people, teachers, custodians, counselors, bus drivers, people who dedicate their lives to students every day.

Student Member Mayes commented that every budget cut affects families and students in the heart of our district. We have a responsibility of protecting our staff so that we continue supporting our students without fear of employees losing their livelihoods. We talked about putting students first, students receive support from the same people whose jobs may not be here next year. When we remove people, we weaken the system. What are we doing to protect both? How is the district advocating at the state level?

Clerk Levine thanked the student trustees for their powerful words. Commented that what we have heard from the audience tonight may be a misperception that tonight's vote is a final action, but it is not a final action, it is the start of a process to figure out what to do with the very real budget deficit. A process to find all the ways to mitigate the impact on our students first and to the adults who run our system.

Clerk Levine clarified that this action is a statutory requirement necessary to begin the formal process. Taking this step now allows the district several months to explore every possible option to reduce or mitigate the impact on employees and programs.

Clerk Levine commented that even though this is not a final action, the start of a process to explore options; Member Levine understands how real and fear must be and acknowledges how extremely difficult the unknown and ambiguity are.

President Islas echoed that these are hard decisions and no member on the Board wants to make these decisions but the Board is in a forced position given the district's decreasing enrollment and decreasing attendance which translates to dollars; the district has been tapping into the reserve over the last two years to sustain positions but we are no longer in a position to continue drawing down the reserve.

President Islas reiterated this is not something the Board is choosing to do; it is something that the Board must do to preserve Fresno Unified School District.

For the record, David Chavez and Annarita Howell were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board adopted Resolution 26-60, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Certificated Services for 2026/27, 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 no.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received one (1) public request to speak on the Consent Agenda. The individual's name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Gloria Hernandez shared comments related to agenda item C5, Proposed Revisions to Board Policies - Constituent Services, specifically BP 1445 Response to Immigration Enforcement.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of C2 and C5 which were pulled for Board member 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 Member 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 February 11, 2026.

On a motion by Clerk Levine, seconded by President Islas, the Board approved the extension of the meeting from 10:00 p.m. to 10:15 p.m., by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. NOES: Board Member Jonasson Rosas. Student Member Souksamlane voted yes as well.

C-2, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-65, Opposing the Southeast Development Area Plan

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-65.

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

Member Thomas motioned to table agenda item C-2.

Member Jonasson Rosas seconded the motion to table agenda item C-2.

Member Wittrup provided a statement as follows: *“As a school board trustee, my responsibility is to govern the school district and to improve student educational outcomes and not to weigh in on municipal zoning matters. So, this resolution falls outside the legal authority and purview of the Board and for that reason I cannot support it.”*

Member Levine spoke against tabling the item, noting that he serves on the Legislative Committee and had voted to bring this resolution forward for Board consideration.

Member Levine clarified that the resolution proposes that the district take a formal position opposing the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Plan as originally proposed, the resolution is framed specifically in response to that original proposal.

Clerk Levine acknowledged that the City is currently updating the plan and that district staff have already had productive conversations with City staff about needed changes.

Clerk Levine shared from his perspective as a trustee that the Board has a responsibility to take a stance against a proposal that in its original form, he believes would negatively affect our students and our district.

Clerk Levine added that instead of tabling the item, he would fully support strengthening or amending the resolution to make it clear that the district's opposition is directed at the plan as presented late last year. Additionally, he would support including language committing district staff to continue meeting with City staff as the plan is revised, inviting City administration to present the updated plan to the Board, and expressing the Board's openness to reconsidering its position once a revised plan is available—provided the concerns identified with the original proposal have been addressed.

President Islas commented that the intent of the resolution is to reject the original SEDA language as it is currently written. She clarified that this does not prevent the Board from supporting the SEDA plan in the future if revisions address the district's concerns and prevent harm to Fresno Unified School District.

President Islas commented on proposing this resolution to reject the original language as currently written, but it does not bar the Board from supporting SEDA if there are improvements that prevent it from being detrimental to Fresno Unified School District.

President Islas commented now is the time to oppose it and not after it is adopted and not after the consequences of the economic impact are felt by the district. President Islas commented on supporting economic development in Fresno and that there is a deep need to move infill development and remove blight from within the neighborhoods of southeast Fresno but that unfortunately is not the priority of SEDA and there are no limitations to industrial development and we have seen the negative impact of unrestrained industrial development to our schools at Calwa and Addams. As written, SEDA would benefit Clovis and Sanger Unified School District. I was not elected to either of those Boards. I am here on this Board to fight for this district and to oppose anything that is detrimental to our economic solvency. I do not want to have to look at cutting positions in a couple more years because we have allowed SEDA to move forward. And finally, to be extremely clear, threats from the Mayor of Fresno did not deter me from my oath to the students, the families, the teachers, and staff that I represent.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved to table agenda item C2, by a roll call vote of 4-3-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup. NOES: Board Member Davis, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. Student Member Mayes voted yes. Student Member Souksamlane voted no.

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 February 11, 2026.

C-5, APPROVE Proposed Revisions to Board Policies - Constituent Services

APPROVED as recommended, proposed revisions for eight Board Policies (BP) as follows: BP 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan; BP 1340 Access to District Records; BP 1445 Response to Immigration Enforcement (NEW); BP 5125 Student Records; BP 5125.1 Release of Directory Information; BP 5131.8 Mobile Communication Devices (NEW); and BP 5139 Regulating the Possession or Use of Portable Communication Devices (DELETE).

For the record, Board Members provided comments and raised questions regarding agenda item C-5. A summary of Board Member feedback is outlined below:

President Islas commented that she would like to offer amendments to the immigration policy, friendly amendments to allow staff to implement clear, enforceable guardrails that protect students, reduce fear driven absenteeism, and ensure that school sites do not respond inconsistently under pressure.

President Islas requested exigent circumstance be defined, and suggested it be amended to, *“Exigent circumstances are situations where it is reasonable to believe action is needed to prevent eminent death or serious injury. Exigent circumstances should not include routine immigration enforcement activities, administrative warrants, civil immigration violations, or generalized assertions of urgency.”*

President Islas requested the non-obstruct clause be strengthened and suggested page one, paragraph four be replaced with, *“However, district staff shall not unlawfully obstruct or physically impede any officer or employee of any agency conducting immigration enforcement who nonetheless enters without permission district provided transportation, a public area of any district property or facility, or a nonpublic area where any district sponsored program or activity is occurring.”*

Simply documenting the activities of the officer or employee including by filming or recording their conduct or taking other steps outlined in board policy, administrative regulation, or district guideline documents such as requesting an officer or employee's credentials will not constitute unlawful obstruction. Staff shall remain calm and professional and immediately contact the Superintendent's Office for support."

President Islas in the interest to protect student directory information requested to incorporate language as follows, "the district shall treat student directory information with the same level of protection as student records for purposes of immigration enforcement inquires and shall not disclose directory information to immigration enforcement, a judicial warrant, court order, or written parent consent unless otherwise required by law.

For the record, Chief of Staff O'Connor explained that per legal counsel the requested amendment related to student directory information could not be accommodated as it is not consistent with the law.

President Islas requested clarity as to if any student records contained information regarding the student's immigration status.

For the record, Chief of Staff O'Connor confirmed immigration status is not something the district captures.

President Islas offered the following, not in terms of an amendment but in terms of urging staff in their implementation of this policy:

- Adopt the direction for family notification as soon as practical of any enforcement contact or request unless legally prohibited with communications to the family in the family's preferred language.
- Encouraged staff training and site-based protocol, so the response is consistent across our campuses.
- Lastly, logging of enforcement contact and periodic aggregate reporting to the Board without personally identifying student information.

President Islas commented that it is not language for adoption but practice in the implementation of this policy that she urges the district to follow.

Member Levine requested clarity as to how the motion and second process for the requested amendments should proceed.

Member Thomas asked if something could be added to ensure the district is not allowing anyone to track district computers thereby tracking district students and parents.

For the record, Chief of Staff O'Connor advised Member Thomas's request could be added to the Administrative Regulation.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Levine, the Board approved C5 with the incorporation of the friendly amendments, 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 Member Souksamlane voted yes as well.

- C-6, APPROVE Creation of New Position and Job Description for Paraprofessional, Itinerant Special Education**
APPROVED as recommended, a side letter with the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 125 that outlines the creation of a mutually agreed upon pilot program for the position of Paraprofessional, Itinerant Special Education. This position is designated Classified, non-exempt, and placed on G-31 of the CSEA 125 Salary Schedule.
- C-7, APPROVE Revised Job Description for Chief Technology Officer**
APPROVED as recommended, the revised job description of Chief Technology Officer. This revised job description reflects inclusion of language which more specifically identifies duties of a Chief Technology Officer in the Information Technology Department.
- C-8, APPROVE Revised Job Description for Executive Director – Fiscal Services**
APPROVED as recommended, the revised job description of Executive Director-Fiscal Services.
- C-9, APPROVE Revised Job Description for Manager (General) – Fiscal Services**
APPROVED as recommended, the revised job description of Manager (General) - Fiscal Services. The Manager is accountable for improving student achievement through the effective management of Fiscal Services. This revised job description reflects inclusion of language, which more specifically identifies duties of a Manager (General) in the Fiscal Services Department.
- C-10, APPROVE Memorandums of Understanding between Fresno Unified School District and Aspen Meadow Public School, Aspen Valley Prep Academy, Sierra Charter School, and University High School**
APPROVED as recommended, the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between Fresno Unified School District and the charter corporate entities as follows: Aspen Public Schools Incorporated, which operates Aspen Meadow Public School and Aspen Valley Prep Academy; Sierra Charter School; and University High School. The MOUs details the relationship between the district, the charter corporate entity, and the charter school regarding operations, oversight, and monitoring.

C-11, APPROVE Award of Bid 26-34, Hamilton K-8 School Gym Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Upgrade

APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid 26-34, Hamilton K-8 School Gym Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Upgrade. This project will upgrade the gymnasium with mechanical cooling.

C-12, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for projects as follows: Bid 24-18, Farber Educational Campus South Building A Modernization; Bid 24-72, McLane High School New Gymnasium; Bid 25-32, Rowell Elementary School Playground Replacements; Bid 25-37, Gibson and Mayfair Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Energy Management System Replacements; Bid 25-46, Sunnyside High School CTE Building Improvements; 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 25-58 Sections A and C, Fencing and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)Improvements at Dailey and Winchell Elementary Schools; Bid 25-60, Aynesworth and Calwa Elementary Schools Unit Ventilation, Energy Management Systems, and Central Plant Equipment Replacement.

C-13, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, for projects which have been completed according to plans and specifications. Those projects are as follows: Bid 24-18, Farber Educational Campus South Building A Modernization; Bid 25-15 Sections A and B, Intrusion Security Upgrades Phase 3; Bid 25-32, Rowell Elementary School Playground Replacements; Bid 25-37, Gibson and Mayfair Elementary Schools Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Energy Management System Replacements; Bid 25-46, Sunnyside High School CTE Building Improvements; Bid 25-50, Tioga Middle School Single Point of Entry and Parking Improvements; Bid 25-58 Sections A, Fencing and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)Improvements at Dailey Elementary School; and Bid 25-58 Sections C, Fencing and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)Improvements at Winchell Elementary School.

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. Oneida Escolar from Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria's office.

OPPORTUNITY for Board Member Reflections on the Board Shared Agreements

President Islas shared a celebration; the McLane Girl's Soccer team won the Division Five Section Championship. Islas looks forward to celebrating them at the state championship and is proud of the seniors on the team who have effectively achieved two championships back-to-back.

Member Jonasson Rosas reported that the board did not meet the expectations outlined in their process for the monitoring report.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 10:13 p.m.