



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

March 11, 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 March 11, 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 4:32 p.m.

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

Trustee Wittrup provided a brief, general reason for her request, and confirmed there were no individuals over the age of eighteen at Trustee Wittrup’s remote location.

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

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved Trustee Wittrup to participate in the meeting 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

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

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received six (6) public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

The individuals' name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Cecilia Aguayo shared concerns that the district is cutting Child Welfare and Attendance positions, an office specifically dedicated to addressing student enrollment and attendance challenges.
2. Diana Arenivas shared concerns that the district is cutting Child Welfare and Attendance positions, an office specifically dedicated to addressing student enrollment and attendance challenges.
3. Andrew Martinez requested the Board reconsider layoffs and the hiring freeze and requested the district stop balancing the budget at the expense of employees that interact with students every day.
4. Alex Belamontes commented on the support students and families will lose from the proposed budget cuts.
5. Arianne Perez shared deep concerns about the direction the district is taking with budget decisions. Serious concerns about the district's priorities when the lowest paid workers are facing staffing reductions and increased workloads.
6. Fifi Sanchez requested the Board to reconsider moving forward with the proposed reductions and layoffs and invited the Board to visit sites to see what each employee does in a day. Reinforced the message that Classified employees are essential workers.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, there were no items for this section of the agenda.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:46 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:02 p.m.

For the record, President Islas invited people to share a moment of silence in honor of three students who passed away within this last week. Our thoughts are with the families and all of those at Fresno High School, Addicott Elementary School, and Rata High School.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

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 Minor, Claim No. GL26-0218-16829, 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 Cazares, the Board took action in closed session, to approve charges for dismissal of a certificated employee, ID No. 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.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in closed session, pursuant to Education Code section 44929.21, authorizing the District Superintendent or her designee to notify probationary certificated employee(s), I.D. Nos. 1083390, 1086262, 1086421, and 1069649 of their non-reelections for the 2026/27 school year, 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 Wittrup, the Board took action in closed session, to approve charges for dismissal of a certificated employee, I.D. No. 1060303, 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 Jonasson Rosas, seconded, by Board Member Levine, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Adjua McNeal as Executive Officer, Analysis, Measurement & Accountability, 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 hire Armen Torigian as Executive Officer, Student Engagement, 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received seventeen (17) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

Those honoring Terri Kimber-Edwards are as follows:

1. Dr. Lisa Mitchell recognized Terri Kimber-Edwards to honor and celebrate her life and life-long work for Fresno Unified School District and our community.
2. Cammie Southern shared personal anecdotes of how Mrs. Edwards has enriched her life.
3. Carla Manning shared personal anecdotes of how as principals she and Mrs. Edwards bonded and began the African American Networking Group.
4. Brittney Mbong shared personal anecdotes of her mother and the blessing of having a mother work at her school. Shared how her mother's love of education passed to her and her sister.
5. Trustee Thomas shared that Mrs. Edwards is amazing and heartfelt, a shoulder to lean on, a quiet storm, and pure royalty.
6. Summer Gaston presented Mrs. Edwards with awards honoring her work, dedication, and service for others.
7. Mrs. Terri Edwards thanked Fresno Unified as she started as a student with Fresno Unified. Commented that we must keep it going for our kids. Expressed appreciation for this moment of recognition.
8. Maribel Anjali Sanchez urged the Board not to Sunset the Fashion Design Program at Roosevelt School of the Arts.
9. Brandon Vue spoke in support of Mrs. Norris, teacher in the Fashion Design Department at Roosevelt High School.
10. Samuel Alviar asked that the Board reconsider the decision to sunset the Career Technical Education (CTE) Fashion Program at Roosevelt High School.
11. Ian Durant shared personal experience of involvement in the Roosevelt High School CTE Fashion Program.
12. Isabella Saldana provided *handouts to the Board and spoke in support of the CTE Fashion Program at Roosevelt High School. Appendix A.
13. Tamara Norris, Fashion Design teacher at Roosevelt High School, spoke in support of the fashion program.
14. Emily Gutierrez asked the Board to please stop using hurtful pesticides at schools.
15. Cristina Gutierrez shared concerns about pesticides used on school campuses.
16. Emm Flores Gutierrez asked the district to ban the worst pesticides from her school.
17. Gloria Hernandez thanked the Board for adding the Safe Roads resolution to the agenda. Spoke in support of the resolution.

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 AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-1, DISCUSS and APPROVE Student Outcomes Focused Governance Implementation Timeline

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Discuss and Approve Student Outcomes Focused Governance Implementation Timeline.

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

Member Jonasson Rosas confirmed submission of the Roosevelt region listening session dates to Superintendent Her.

Member Cazares expressed willingness to participate on a three-person subcommittee to develop materials for the listening sessions and expressed interest in hosting a listening session for the Hoover region.

Clerk Levine committed to hosting a listening session and would like to partner with a fellow Board colleague.

President Islas referenced a sensitivity that board members who are in campaign mode should not lead the listening sessions. President Islas shared that she would be happy to join as a second and would like to host a listening session for her constituents in the McLane region.

Member Thomas expressed interest in hosting a listening session for the Edison region and shared she is willing to partner with whoever needs a partner and is already partnered with Member Jonasson Rosas.

Member Davis expressed interest in hosting a listening session for the Sunnyside region.

Member Wittrup expressed interest in hosting a listening session in the Bullard region and is willing to partner with a fellow board member. Member Wittrup is not interested in conducting a community training but extremely interested in a listening session. Member Wittrup would like the sessions to be held in the fall.

The Board agreed to two windows to hold listening sessions, March to May and August to September.

Members Cazares and Davis will partner and host a community training.

Members Cazares, Davis, and Thomas will be the three-person subcommittee to create a PPT for the listening sessions.

President Islas requested clarity about the Board meeting to review their shared agreements.

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

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Clerk Levine, the Board approved the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Implementation Timeline as amended, 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, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-61, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Discontinue Particular Classified Services for the 2026/27 School Year

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public request to speak on agenda item B-2, Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 26-61, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Discontinue Particular Classified Services for the 2026/27 School Year.

For the record, David Chavez was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-61, 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-3, DISCUSS and ADOPT Resolution No. 26-66, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services for the 2026/27 School Year

For the record, the Board received zero public requests to speak on agenda item B-3, Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 26-66, Authorizing the Board to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services for the 2026/27 School Year.

For the record, David Chavez was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-66 by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and Clerk Levine. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

B-4, DISCUSS and DECIDE on the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Corrected Ballot

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on agenda item B-4, Discuss and Decide on the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Corrected Ballot.

For the record, Board Member Thomas nominated, incumbent Darrel Carter (Washington USD).

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 decided on Darrel Carter and approved the 2026 CSBA Delegate Assembly corrected ballot for Subregion 10/B (Fresno County) by a 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.

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. Sher Moua spoke in support of proposed Resolution No. 26-69, Better Roads, Safe Streets Transportation Measure.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda items C2, C9, and C13 which were pulled for Board member discussion and recusals, 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 25, 2026.

C-2, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-69, In Support of the Better Roads, Safe Streets Transportation Measure

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-69.

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

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

“Agenda item C-2 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, contains a resolution in Support of the Better Roads, Safe Streets Transportation Measure. If passed, this resolution will also provide benefit to the City of Clovis. While I did not participate in the drafting of the resolution, I am employed by the City of Clovis. Out of an abundance of caution, pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270, I will be abstaining vote regarding this matter.”

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

“Agenda item C-2 on tonight’s Consent Agenda, contains a resolution in Support of the Better Roads, Safe Streets Transportation Measure. While I did not participate in the drafting of the resolution, I am a consultant on this campaign. Out of an abundance of caution, pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270, I will be recusing myself from the discussion and vote regarding this matter.”

For the record, after making their statements, Board Clerk Levine and Board Member Cazares exited the Board Room.

President Islas commented on this item being a huge investment with the potential to generate \$7.4 billion with 65% of those potential monies going to investments in local neighborhoods.

President Islas commented on the rise in Fresno Unified students being injured in traffic incidents while walking or bicycling to school, including two fatalities. Islas noted that when the district has requested investments, it has not received the necessary cooperation from city or county offices, and funding from the Better Roads, Safe Streets Transportation Measure will allow the district to invest in needed improvements.

President Islas expressed full support for this Measure as students and children are encouraged to walk and bike to school and they deserve the investments to do so safely.

Member Davis commented that by a school in the Sunnyside region when it rains it is difficult for students to cross the street, which results in excessive student absences.

Member Davis stated that the district has repeatedly requested assistance from multiple City Council members over several years to address the issue, and as a result, she supports this Measure.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-69, In Support of the Better Roads, Safe Streets, Transportation Improvement Measure, by a roll call vote of 5-0-0-2 as follows: AYES: Board Members Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and President Islas. ABSENT: Board Members Cazares and Levine. Student Member Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

For the record, after the vote for agenda item C-2, Board Clerk Levine and Board Member Cazares rejoined the meeting.

- 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 Board Workshop held February 18, 2026, and the regular meeting held February 25, 2026.
- C-5, APPROVE Revisions to Board Meeting Dates**
APPROVED as recommended, revisions to Board meeting dates for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 school years.
- C-6, APPROVE 2025/26 Second Interim Financial Report**
APPROVED as recommended, the Fresno Unified School District Second Interim Financial Report.
- C-7, APPROVE Appointment to Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**
APPROVED as recommended, the appointment of Drew Wilson to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.
- C-8, APPROVE Revised Job Description for Manager II – Nurse Educator**
APPROVED as recommended, the revised job description for Manager II - Nurse Educator.
- C-9, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals No. 26-01, Integrated Pest Management**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 26-01, Integrated Pest Management for all school sites and departments.

For the record, Board Members provided comments and raised questions about agenda item C-9. A summary of Board Member feedback is below:

Member Jonasson Rosas commented that this is an area important to her and considering the public comment asked Mr. Idsvoog to speak about the district's plan to do a better job of minimizing the use of pesticide use and exposure for our students.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved Award of Request for Proposals No. 26-01, Integrated Pest Management by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

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

- C-10, APPROVE Use of Individual Piggyback and Cooperative Contracts**
APPROVED as recommended, a list of five piggyback and cooperative purchasing contracts for use during the 2025/26 fiscal year to support efficient and cost-effective procurement.
- C-11, RATIFY the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sacramento County Office of Education Pertaining to the Bridge Grant**
RATIFIED as recommended, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sacramento County Office of Education pertaining to the Bridge Grant to assist districts in the implementation of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.
- C-12, RATIFY Purchase Orders from December 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025 – Primary Report**
RATIFIED as recommended, on purchase orders issued from December 01, 2025, through December 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 with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.
- C-13, RATIFY Purchase Orders from December 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025 – Supplemental Report**
RATIFIED as recommended, on purchase orders issued from December 01, 2025, through December 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 with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.

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

“Agenda item C-13 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and Bulldog Baseball Camps, California State University, Fresno, the CSUF Downing Planetarium, and Fresno State University.

I did not participate in the making of the purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with Fresno State, I have a remote financial interest in the purchase orders.

Therefore, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board President Islas, the Board ratified Purchase Orders from December 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025 – Supplemental Report, 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 Member Mayes and Student Member Souksamlane voted yes as well. ABSTENTIONS: Board Clerk Levine.

INVITATION for Board Member Reflections on the Board Shared Agreements

President Islas shared a comment as a reminder to herself and her fellow Board colleagues and encouraged board members to arrive on time to meetings, both committee and board meetings, to make every effort to come early or on time.

President Islas commented that often times there have been meetings where staff have waited 20 minutes or more for colleagues to arrive in order to proceed with the meeting and Islas asked that out of respect for district staff that board members be conscious of the impact their tardiness is having.

President Islas shared it has also been a criticism from the public in terms of the Boards' meeting conduct and Islas commented that the Board is working to improve.

President Islas ended her comments by saying that being prepared and being on time are shared commitments that the Board has made to each other and the public.

For the record, President Islas shared information related to events honoring Cesar Chavez.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Solution Brief

Email: [REDACTED] (Preferred)

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

From: Isabella Saldana, Former Roosevelt Student

Date: March 11, 2026 | **Subject:** Unscheduled Oral Communications

Recommendation: Direct the College & Career Readiness Department of identifying and applying for K12 SWP and CTEIG state funds to preserve and modernize the Roosevelt High School Fashion Design pathway.

Problem/ Context: This program is at risk of discontinuing because of the district facing budget constraints. The school and district would lose:

1. An exclusive program that is only available at Roosevelt High School.
2. A vital community that connects (Arts, Athletics, Spirit Groups, and clothing support for students in need)

Community Benefits:

1. Support for Roosevelt School of the Arts costumes
2. Clothing repairs for the Inclusive Autism Program
3. The only four-year fashion portfolio program in the district

Funding Solutions:

- K12 Strong Workforce Program (SWP)
- CTE Incentive Grant (CTEIG)

Reasons:

1. It's a "2-for-1" Deal: For every \$1 the state gives FUSD; the district just must show they are already spending \$2 on the program. No "new" money is required.
2. The Pot is Huge: California puts \$450 million into these two grants every year. Roosevelt just needs a slice of that pile.
3. Investment vs. Cost: Spending \$60k a year to maintain the program is much cheaper than losing the costumes for the Theater department and the clothing support for the Special Education Program.