



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 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 March 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 4:31 p.m.

For the record, Board President Islas reported that due to a broken digital signal processor within our audio equipment, tonight's meeting will not be live streamed. A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website tomorrow.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Patrick Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received fourteen (14) public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Manual Bonilla commented it can be harder to enter a board meeting than some of our schools. Spoke out against the proposed layoffs and commented there is a different path available. Commented that the proposed cuts would reduce critical support for students.
2. Marissa Rodriguez commented that at professional trainings district leadership often tells teachers to assume good intentions; and it is difficult for school staff to assume good intentions because the messages that come from leadership are not fooling anybody and feels like leadership is expecting school staff to do more with less.

3. People want transparency and answers and want to know what is going to happen on campuses next year. We, as people, teachers, counselors, nurses, and custodians do not have the luxury of avoiding difficult conversations, so you folks need to come to our places of work, a lot of the messaging from this body of leadership feels like gaslighting. Requested the Board and district leadership to make good decisions.
4. Drew Colburn referenced an incident involving a student with a firearm at a school campus and commented it reminded people of how important it is to have the right student support in place. Asked that the Board choose support over cuts.
5. Ezekiel Camargo shared data points noting the decrease in expulsions from the work of restorative practices, mentors, and counselors and commented that proposed budget cuts will reduce opportunities for these types of interventions.
6. Christine Delacruz spoke of how proposed cuts to school nurses would affect nurse workloads and shared several processes nurses complete for medically fragile students.
7. Terri Reichert spoke of Health Services programs that have been closed over the years. Requested the Board to reconsider cutting school nurse and health aid positions.
8. Lindsey Delacruz spoke in support of ensuring every school has access to a full-time nurse and shared examples of student support provided by school nurses. Delacruz urged the Board to prioritize funding for full-time nurses for every school.
9. Casey Sipes shared examples of issues that school nurses address. Shared a story of a time when a school nurse advocated for a student and commented that nurses are a vital safety net for students.
10. Kimberly Cherry shared concerns regarding the district's lack of a substitute pool for school nurses, the fact that only eighteen of the thirty-six nurse positions promised four years ago have been filled, ongoing vacancies left unfilled, and the removal of retiree contracts.
11. Vour Xiong commented that cutting positions does not eliminate need it only shifts the burden, resulting in increased workloads, burnout, and declining learning conditions for students.
12. Ariane Perez urged the Board to explore other options other than cutting positions. Commented that people are not just numbers on a spreadsheet but fellow community members, parents, and former students of Fresno Unified School District.
13. Nicolas Bolton spoke against proposed layoffs and provided examples of what could result when there is less support.
14. Marina Santos referenced emotional trauma happening at Fresno High School and the lack of emotional intellect, failure to enforce responses to interventions, failure to report outcomes to staff, on the side of Fresno High School leadership.
15. Adalia Alvarez referenced topics brought forward by students related to sexual education and does not understand cuts to the Positive Prevention Plus program. Commented that resources are not equal within Fresno Unified.

For the record, Board President Islas asked for a point of privilege. Islas thanked those that had the courage to stand up and speak and shared that the Board is listening and understands these are difficult situations to be in; and personally, does not like being in the position to contemplate cutting job positions. Islas wanted people to hear that directly from the Board.

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 5:12 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:17 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded, by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Augustine Perez, Claim No. GL25-1002-17062, 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 Wittrup the Board took action in Closed Session to deny The Hartford Insurance ASO Black Diamond Electric, Inc., Claim No. GL25-1106-16017, 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 Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Meegan Grant to Principal of Eaton Elementary School, 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 Ryan Coe to Principal of Wilson Elementary School, 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 appoint Teri Helton to Principal of Fulton School, 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 Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to externally hire Diana Ortega to Principal of the Adult Transition Program, 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 President Islas, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to externally hire Rebecca Jensen to Principal of Addicott Elementary School, 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, 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 ACCEPT the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report – March 2026

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Discuss and Accept the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report – March 2026.

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

Member Thomas asked about the implementation timeline for training substitutes and parents in this work.

Member Wittrup asked how the district will ensure that students reassigned to schools with less resources than their home school will not lose opportunities. Often reassignments happen and students go to schools that do not have the resources for their required level of support.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked about opportunities provided for peer-to-peer training across grade levels district wide.

Clerk Levine asked if staff is seeing is a pattern of schools that are on track with Social Emotional Learning are more likely to be on track with student academic improvement outcomes.

Member Cazares asked how we will track this guardrail to ensure it is bringing about positive changes and the changes we want to see in our outcomes. How is this different from individual teachers that feel the need to teach students responsibility.

Member Davis asked if the list of off-track schools reflects schools that have the same level of training as Cooper Academy

President Islas expressed support for Targeted Universalism. Asked how we institutionalize this over the long-term. Referenced Slide 13, commented that an important baseline is understanding how many staff and instructors are already receptive to, and practicing, even if they are not currently labeling their work as Targeted Universalism. This will allow for increase in buy-in by naming the work, making it more easily embraced.

Islas noted the challenge of delaying too long to evaluate an initiative; when we wait too long to evaluate a struggling initiative it may fail before issues are identified and corrected. Islas strongly recommended a model of planning, doing and studying as we implement Targeted Universalism; this would allow for course corrections when needed to maximize the work.

President Islas asked if staff reflected and learned from earlier initiatives that failed and are using the learning when implementing this work.

For the record, Superintendent Her, Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Rita Baharin, and Cooper Academy Principal Sandi Auble, VP Melissa Rodriguez and student Toni Bradbury were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board accepted the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report for March 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 2026/27 Strategic Budget Development – Phase I

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-2, Present and Discuss the 2026/27 Strategic Budget Development – Phase I.

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

Member Cazares referenced the slide about district-wide athletic access and asked how the district plans to incorporate operational investment into community involvement to help lay the groundwork to provide for and develop our smallest athletes.

Member Jonasson Rosas related to the BSUs asked how many more students the district will serve.

Clerk Levine referenced Slide 2 of the appendix presentation and requested staff to walk through the district's budget implications, specifically the status of Unrestricted Reserves, including the current unrestricted balance and the amount that has been utilized over the past several years.

President Islas underscored the \$30 million that the district cannot move due to an agreement with the Fresno Teachers Association and commented that Board is happy to talk with the Fresno Teachers Association about the release of those resources.

Islas asked if there is any other penny that the Board has discretion to move that people might say is arbitrary. Islas asked for an explanation of what it would look like to be under state control. Islas remarked that it would mean the Board would lose voting authority and the state could cancel any agreements made by the Board with existing Labor partners.

President Islas commented this is a hard position to be in and the Board does not like idea of anyone losing their jobs but at the end of the day, the Board was elected to ensure the district is solvent, thriving, and meeting the needs of the student population. Expressed appreciation for the comment about part of the restructuring is to fulfill the goals established in Student Focused Outcomes Governance.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity as to the \$6.261 orange line represented and why it does not change and asked what was the plan before the district had a dedicated textbook adoption budget line. Asked staff to talk about the Governor's May Revise. Asked if the budget reflects an increase in the cost of fuel. Requested a high-level explanation of discretionary school budgets.

Student Member Souksamlane asked if the Fresno Teachers Association agreed to release the \$20 million if then the district could use. Asked for the estimated enrollment for 2026/27 and how it will affect state funding.

For the record, Patrick Jensen, Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., and Deputy Superintendent Ben Drati, Ed.D., were available to provide clarity.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C4, which was pulled by Member Jonasson Rosas, 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 March 11, 2026.

- C-2, APPROVE Personnel List**
APPROVED as recommended, the personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.
- C-3, 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 March 11, 2026.
- C-4, APPROVE Agreement with Save Mart Center for 2026 High School Graduation Ceremonies**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Save Mart Center at Fresno State to host the Class of 2026 graduation ceremonies and associated practices.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas commented on understanding the advantages of holding graduation ceremonies at the Save Mart Center but given the current budget situation asked staff to do a cost comparison of holding graduation ceremonies at school campuses.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved agenda item C4, Approve Agreement with Save Mart Center or 2026 High School Graduation Ceremonies, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and Board President Islas. Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane voted yes as well.

- C-5, APPROVE Agreement with Lucyrx Health Solutions Inc**
APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with Lucyrx Health Solutions for the period of April 01, 2026, through December 31, 2028, to provide an international sourcing option for high-cost medications.
- C-6, APPROVE Renewal Agreement with Marsh & McLennan Agency**
APPROVED as recommended, a renewal agreement with Marsh & McLennan Agency for the provision of insurance consulting and brokerage services.
- C-7, APPROVE Property, Liability, and Cyber Insurance for the 2026/27 Fiscal Year**
APPROVED as recommended, a summary of quotations received from the district's insurance broker, Marsh & McLennan Agency, for the district's various forms of coverage.
- C-8, APPROVE Award of Bid No. 26-17, Compostable Meal Trays**
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid No. 26-17, Compostable Meal Trays to establish fixed pricing for compostable meal trays used in the district's Child Nutrition Programs.

C-9, APPROVE Award of Bid No. 26-26, Internet Service Provider

APPROVED as recommended, revised information on Bid No. 26-26, Internet Service Provider, presented to the Board on December 17, 2025. The revision reflects an increase of \$6,200 for the five-year contract.

C-10, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the following projects: Bid 24-56, Fresno High School Auxiliary Gym and Site Improvements; Bid 24-86, Nutrition Center Facility Upgrades; Bid 25-31, Mayfair Elementary School Playground Replacements; Bid 25-40, Edison High School Locker Room Modernization; Bid 25-47, Yosemite Middle School Administration Building Modernization; Bid 25-48, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Improvement at Various Sites; Bid 26-08, Fresno High School Pool Improvements; and Bid 26-10, Fresno Unified Service Center Bus Electric Vehicle Improvements

C-11, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for projects which were completed according to plans and specifications. The projects are as follows: Bid 24-86, Nutrition Center Facility Upgrades; Bid 25-47, Yosemite Middle School Administration Building Modernization; and Bid 26-10, Fresno Unified Service Center Bus Electric Vehicle Improvements.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received ten (10) requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Felipe Lemus shared concerns related to school detention classes and reasons teachers send students to detention.
2. Ian Durant advocated in support for the Roosevelt Fashion program.
3. Tamara Norris advocated for the Roosevelt Fashion Design Class and presented information to the Board of concerns which seem to show the district not living up to the district guardrails. Provided handout to the Board. See Appendix A.
4. Petra Ramirez shared concerns related to the use of pesticides on school campuses and requested the Board to place an item on the next agenda about pesticides.
5. Brenda Ordaz was not present when name called.
6. Asuncion Ponce as a farm worker shared concerns related to the use of pesticides on school campuses and requested the Board to place an item on the next agenda about pesticides.
7. Mariela Vallejo shared concerns related to the use of pesticides on school campuses and requested the Board to place an item on the next agenda regarding pesticides.

8. Juanita Ramirez shared concerns related to the use of pesticides on school campuses and requested the Board to place an item on the next agenda about pesticides.
9. Elena Flores shared that today her tooth came out because she is growing and that is why she does not want pesticides used at her school.
10. Emily Flores asked the Board to please protect her health and asked that the district stop using harmful pesticides.
11. Christina Gutierrez shared concerns related to the use of pesticides on school campuses and requested the Board to place an item on the next agenda about pesticides.
12. Lourdes Cardenez advocated for the district to stop the use of pesticides on school campuses. Commented that the pesticides used are coming to people on their food just as it is coming to students at schools.

Member Jonasson Rosas noted that several years ago the Board discussed and took action regarding chemical use on school campuses. This Board takes the issue of chemical use at schools seriously and is committed to protecting the health of students. As a former air-quality advocate, Member Jonasson Rosas expressed an understanding of where these concerns are coming from particularly as they relate to young, developing lungs and bodies.

President Islas commented the topic will go to agenda review to decide placement on an agenda and staff will let Christina Guterrez know.

INVITATION for Board Members to Shared Reflections on the Board Shared Agreements

Member Jonasson Rosas, entrusted with tracking the Board's effectiveness toward the goal monitoring process, reported that all members submitted questions and took part during the meeting but question quality decreased. The Board scored 71%, an area of growth for the Board is related to time-bound questions, questions should focus on actions taken to get the results wanted.

Member Jonasson Rosas reported the Board scored 63% to 64% on the Ask Oriented questions that need to be more open-ended than yes than no.

Student Member Souksamlane shared information from the Student Advisory Board meeting and plans to launch voter literacy education for high school students.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:54 p.m.