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
April 08, 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 April 08, 2026, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Wittrup. Superintendent Her was also present as well as Student Members Mayes and Souksamlane.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tami Lundberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received one (1) public request to address the Board on Closed Session items.

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

1. Casey Oliver shared concerns about the Job Developer position, including job scope, workload, and support. CSEA was involved on several occasions in helping Job Developers in addressing these concerns. Due to the timing and circumstances, this raised concerns that layoffs are potential retaliatory action.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of agenda item A-1, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws (BB) as follows: BB 9121 President; BB 9122 Secretary; BB 9123 Clerk; BB 9130 Board Committees; BB 9140 Board Representatives; and BB 9150 Student Board Members.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session extended to 7:10 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:12 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Clerk Levine, seconded, by Board Member Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Minor, Claim No. GL25-1006-15790, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded, by Board Member Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Yessica Carrasco, Claim No. GL25-0908-17140, by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. NOES: Board Member Cazares.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board took action in closed session, to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, I.D. No. 1080144, 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 Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in closed session, to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, I.D. No. 1078638, 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, to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, I.D. No. 1085745, 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, to approve charges for dismissal of a classified employee, I.D. No. 1076813, 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 Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Ashlee Chiarito to Principal of Baird 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 President Islas, seconded, by Board Member Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Carmela Teran to Principal of Scandinavian Middle 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 Davis, seconded, by Board Member Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Tashiana Aquino to Principal of Gaston Middle School, by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Thomas.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded, by Board Member Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Isacc Villanueva to Principal of Wawona Middle 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 Davis, seconded, by Board Clerk Levine, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Toua Chang to Principal of Kings Canyon Middle School, by a roll call vote of 4-0-2-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Thomas, and Clerk Levine. ABSTENTIONS: Board Members Jonasson Rosas and Wittrup. ABSENT: Board President Islas.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Laurinda Blanco to Principal of Edison High 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 Wittrup, seconded, by Board Member Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Alicia Jackson to Principal of Bullard High 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, PRESENT and DISCUSS the 2026/27 Strategic Budget Development – Phase II

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Present and Discuss the 2026/27 Strategic Budget Development – Phase II.

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

Member Wittrup asked what evidence staff used that showed a district newspaper would connect the district with the community versus social media; what evidence is telling staff if a district newspaper is capturing community engagement the best way.

Wittrup referenced the money spent on the Excellence in Education event and the Retirement Celebration and commented that these are adult parties and although the district recoups the money from ticket sales, the amount paid up front could fund a person's job or used in another department. Wittrup commented on looking to see where the district can afford to squeeze as much as possible from the budget without touching students or classrooms.

Wittrup emphasized the need for stronger accountability around the budget, questioning whether the $100K spent could be better used elsewhere, especially as it funds adult parties during a period of significant financial cutbacks.

Wittrup expressed concern that the listed budget items are used for their intended purposes and asked the district to exercise caution and avoid characterizing funds as a “wash,” implying there is no actual cost.

Member Thomas asked for information in a board communication about the number of students enrolled in Career Technical Education (CTE) classes and the student demographics. Thomas commented that it feels many students may miss the opportunity because parents do not know they need to enroll their children in CTE. Member Thomas commented on having asked for this information before.

Thomas referenced the math adoption and asked if the district has piloted the math materials.

Member Cazares referenced slide seven and the work-based learning opportunities for students in the ninth through twelfth grades and students with disabilities. This Board has historically shown dedicated support for incentivizing local companies to provide stipends. If our local companies and community partners are willing to provide stipends, then the district should do everything possible to ensure that students receive those stipends. In the past I have heard that is not necessarily the case and I would like to be sure we are addressing this issue as part of any initiatives for the upcoming year.

Cazares commented that there has been earlier discussion about expanding dual enrollment opportunities with Fresno State, as we are nearing capacity with our local city college; and asked if there is any way the Board can help in moving that forward.

Cazares asked if the district pays for dual enrollment courses.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked if the district has researched West Hills and College of the Sequoias. Commented on internships and job placements and how the district is looking at intersession but there are other internships that our community partners provide that may support the student profile.

Member Levine referenced three areas where staff used X and Y due to the absence of an established baseline and suggested that when a baseline is not yet in place, staff note within the presentation the estimated timeline for establishing the baseline.

President Islas commented that it is helpful to understand the best ideas of how staff establish a target, if it will happen through engagement with staff or the Board.

Islas wants to make sure the public understands about the budget, we are building a plane as we are flying, what the public is seeing in real time is the restructuring of the district budget to align with the goals and guardrails.

Islas commented it is important to keep centered--we are at a budget deficit and need to reformulate our staffing, some of which is driven by the goals we are trying to achieve. So, you will see in presentations there are positions that are newly outlined and those positions we hope to recruit and fill with existing staff.

Islas responded to the comment related to print items, and offered points to consider for our population as follows: many of our students will be first generation into college, many come from homes that did not experience a lot of opportunities for educational attainment, and many homes that the average reading level is sixth grade. So, in terms of print mediums there is the challenge of creating them in a way our population will easily understand, to establish the narrative that is important for our public, to use all our channels in a way that is educational and helps people to understand why we are in these tough choices, print medium should be intentional and consider the literacy and language needs of our community.

Islas commented that social media is great if you have technology and if you have access to dependable Wi-Fi. There is the need for different modalities of communication to compensate and as the district considers the type of modalities to use the district to be cognizant of the limitations and challenges that we have in order to create a continuum of communication mechanisms that help us reach all of our community.

Member Davis commented that as we look at our goals and guardrails and monitor, we will have more of an idea of what is on track and truly be able to evaluate and pivot if needed.

For the record, Patrick Jensen, Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., and Adela G. Duncan were available to provide clarity.

B2, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Initial Proposal from the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers to Fresno Unified School District for the 2026-2029 Successor Agreement

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-2, Discuss and Approve the Initial Proposal from the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers 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 Initial Proposal from the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers 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-3, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Initial Proposal from Fresno Unified School District to the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers for the 2026-2029 Successor Agreement

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-3, Discuss and Approve the Initial Proposal from Fresno Unified School District to the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers for the 2026-2029 Successor Agreement

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

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved the Initial Proposal from Fresno Unified School District to the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers 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.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received three (3) public requests to speak on the Consent Agenda. The individual's name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Debbie Darden commented on the removal of murals of Cesar Chavez from properties within the City of Fresno, noting that murals on Fresno Unified buildings, such as Edison High School, remain. Ms. Darden commented that the community did not want the mural from the outset and questioned why there has not been urgency to remove the mural.

2. Robert Mitchell spoke of earlier opposition to the placement of the Cesar Chavez mural at Edison High School and commented that the action—or inaction—of the former Superintendent and Board of Trustees has brought us to where we are today. Mr. Mitchell referenced a recent article saying that the district is now contemplating holding community meetings to decide what should happen to the mural. Mr. Mitchell commented that what is troubling is that there were no community meetings when the district approved of the mural. As a result, the community was blindsided.

   Mr. Mitchell commented that there is a clear right and wrong here. By leaving the mural up, injury continues to occur. You have both the power and the authority, by virtue of your positions, to decide. You did not rely on community meetings to put the mural up, and you do not need them now to take it down.

   Mr. Mitchell stated we do not want this mural in our community. As adults and leaders, we must set an example. You are the conscience of this school district, and we are asking you to act.

3. Pastor B.T. Lewis spoke about the removal of the Cesar Chavez mural at Edison High School and commented that Edison is more than an institution of learning, but a key centerpiece of light and hope in one of the most vulnerable communities in the country.

   Pastor Lewis expressed appreciation for the Board's consideration of a plan to engage stakeholders; however, given the recent allegations, he believes it is in the best interest of our district and our community to remove the image of Cesar Chavez as soon as possible; especially, from the administration building of Edison High School.

   Pastor Lewis shared concerns about other high schools in the district and commented on seeing elegance and a distinctive look when looking at Roosevelt or Fresno High. Pastor Lewis shared of hearing stories of the old administration building at Edison and commented the community has not experienced that kind of pride and elegance in the façade of Edison for decades.

   Pastor Lewis asked that as the Board considers this new plan that they also consider something in the immediate future, that would cover that mural in particular, and figure out how to reposition murals so that bias is not shown one way or another as people pass by the façade facing the street of Edison High School.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C10 which was pulled for Board member recusal, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. Student 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 25, 2026.

C-2, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-78, Establishing a Community Centered Process for Addressing Concerns Related to Facility Names, Murals, or Likenesses of Individuals Represented on District Property
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-78

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 March 25, 2026.

C-5, APPROVE 2025/26 Salary Schedule Revisions Reflecting the Addition of Approved Job Titles
APPROVED as recommended, 2025/26 salary schedule revisions reflecting the addition of approved job titles approved by the Board February 25, 2026.

C-6, APPROVE Revised Job Description for Vehicle Utilities Worker
APPROVED as recommended, the revised job description for Vehicle Utilities Worker.

C-7, APPROVE Award of Bid No. 26-35, Sections A and B, Ahwahnee and Computech Middle School Landscape Improvement Project
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid No. 26-35, Sections A and B, Ahwahnee and Computech Middle School Landscape Improvement Project.

C-8, APPROVE Award of Bid No. 26-36, Edison High School Central Plant Cooling Tower Replacement and Energy Management System Upgrade
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid No. 26-36, Edison High School Central Plant Cooling Tower Replacement and Energy Management System Upgrade.

C-9, RATIFY Purchase Orders from January 01, 2026, through January 31, 2026 – Primary Report
RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders that were issued from January 01, 2026, through January 31, 2026 - Primary Report. Two items are presented to ratify purchase orders. The first item includes the Primary Report with all purchase orders issued during the reported dates except for 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-10, RATIFY Purchase Orders from January 01, 2026, through January 31, 2026 – Supplemental Report
RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders that were issued from January 01, 2026, through January 31, 2026 - Supplemental Report. Two items are presented to ratify purchase orders. The first item includes the Primary Report with all purchase orders issued during the reported dates except for 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-10 on tonight's Consent Agenda contains purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, California State University, Fresno, and the CSUF Downing Planetarium.
>
> I did not participate in the making of the purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with Fresno State, I have a remote financial interest in the purchase orders.
>
> Therefore, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270."

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board ratified Purchase Orders from January 01, 2026, through January 31, 2026 – 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

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

Member Davis shared that tomorrow morning the Fresno City Council will honor students of the Sunnyside Playhouse Theater that performed a production of Jane Eyre at the Lincoln Center in New York.

President Islas commented on having emailed Patrick Jensen a series of questions about the budget which were mostly narrative in nature about alignment of the board goals and guardrails which Islas felt would not be helpful during the strategic budget presentation. But then there was the appendix and in the appendix from an earlier presentation there was much more detail by department on number of positions for elimination. These questions in transparency are questions that relate to questions we are receiving from our labor partners, particularly the Fresno Teachers Association (FTA).

Islas commented that the questions do not need to be read into record but would prefer to see a board communication in response to those questions, this will allow the Board and public to make themselves available to the information.

Islas' main question of interest is the disparity of what we say is available in the Reserves and what FTA believes is available in the Reserves; that is the crux of the series of questions, clarity between the committed and obligated dollars and if there is any latitude in order to maximize every opportunity to reallocate dollars and to save positions, to assure the public that we are all interested in as much as possible if we can save positions, we want to fight for that.

President Islas shared one of the narratives is that the Board is not cutting at the district level and President Islas has requested an analysis from the Superintendent that she hopes will become public that will show the total percentage of staff that we have and the percentage of staff at the district level which is approximately 10% of our overall staffing and that is important to dispel the idea that the Board are trying to balance the budget on the back of our lowest paid workers. There definitely are positions for elimination at the district level that are very well-paid positions. Islas would like that to be very public and transparent as well.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:33 p.m.