



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

May 13, 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 May 13, 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 eleven (11) public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

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

1. Maggie Alvarez Ramirez shared a personal anecdote about Alvarez Ramirez's child in which the teacher and school nurse took action that resulted in saving the child's life. Alvarez Ramirez expressed gratitude to the dedicated teachers and compassionate nurses at the school.
2. Casey Sipes spoke of the devastating impact the loss of eight (8) registered nurse positions and five (5) health aid positions from the screening team will have on students and staff in the district. Sipes commented these cuts are not minor and will reduce student access to healthcare. Sipes listed procedures managed by nurses and health aids to support students so they can safely remain in class ready to learn. Sipes commented that cutting positions now will push many sites beyond what is safe and sustainable.

3. Disney Mason shared personal background information and shared of the love the Mason family has for Fresno Unified. Mason commented on always wanting to be a nurse and to help meet the needs of children and their families, to contribute to their holistic being as part of the public school system and the city. Mason shared experiences of serving the diverse demographics of elementary students within Fresno Unified and fighting for their safety and care. Mason commented that school nurses are critical frontline providers and are uniquely positioned to bridge educational and healthcare gaps. Mason commented that with the cut of eight (8) nurses and five (5) health aid positions, as well as the loss of retired school nurse support school nurses will have to support more schools daily resulting in heavier expectations on the office staff, teachers, and administrators. Mason implored the Board to reconsider cutting healthcare positions.
4. Lindsey De la Cruz commented that school nurses perform duties beyond ice packs and bandages; duties that include vision and hearing screenings that were previously performed by retired nurses. Lindsey shared of completing 116 health assessments for Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs)
5. Rachel Cherniak spoke in solidarity with fellow nurses. Cherniak shared of currently serving a site with a significant special education population of which many students live with chronic health conditions, commenting that managing this site alone is a full workload. Cherniak noted that with the proposed cuts some school sites will be doubled up, meaning one nurse will be responsible for two campuses, with the workload doubling but time and resources not: creating a larger margin for error.
6. Haley Hendrix shared strong opposition to the proposed cuts to eight nursing positions. Hendrix commented on the growing percentage of special education and 504 Plan caseloads, commenting it indicates a potential growing pipeline of advanced medical needs. Hendrix commented that as of this morning, the documented number of student visits to the nurse this year was 6323, visits that involved not only routine childhood illnesses and injury care but also emergency situations, medication administration, diabetes care, tube feeding, and medical procedures. Hendrix asked if routine and emergency medical needs are increasing as well as the special education population how can reducing nursing positions be safe.
7. Terri Reichert commented on retirement after 26 years of services. Reichert commented that due to proposed budget cuts eliminating eight nursing positions, Reichert's role will not be filled, and Reichert's responsibilities, along with those of the other eliminated positions will be redistributed among the remaining nursing staff, 84 nurses for 68,000 students. Reichert invited the Board to visit nurses at the sites.
8. Christine Delacruz commented that Fresno Unified currently has 92 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) serving approximately 110 school sites and next year this will drop to 84 FTE. Delacruz commented that in the history of Fresno Unified, the district has never placed a nurse at every site. Delacruz referenced the National Association for School Nurses as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics which say, every school should have at least one full-time Registered Nurse.

Delacruz noted that other departments have seen growth and investment while the Health Services Department has been allowed to deteriorate and asked the Board to commit to replacing the positions of the nurses retiring.

9. Bo Yang ceded time to Reyna Renderos.
10. Reyna Renderos spoke about the proposed reductions of restorative practices (RP) counselors at the elementary level. Commenting that the role as RP counselors is to provide individual and small group counseling, facilitate restorative repairs and mediations, support reentry after suspension, and monitor student outcomes over time. Renderos noted this work is not separate from academic counseling; it is the foundation for it. Renderos encouraged the district to continue exploring initiatives and other sustainable mental health funding opportunities that could preserve critical student support services at the elementary level.
11. Nasa James did not speak.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of agenda item A-1, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Policies.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 5:01 p.m.

For the record, Closed Session extended to 7:00 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Wittrup, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Teny Xiong, Claim No. GL25-1016-15771, 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 Clerk Levine, seconded, by Board President Islas, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Elizabeth Anne Hays, Claim No. GL25-1101-17445, by a roll call vote of 0-0-0-0 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 Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session to lateral Maria Marisa Favila to Principal of Hidalgo 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 Board President Islas.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded, by Board Member Thomas, the Board took action in Closed Session to appoint Zachary Rocca to Principal of Phoenix 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 Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to lateral Rick Santos to Principal of Pyle 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 Cazares, seconded, by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session to internally hire Erica Jimenez to Principal of Yosemite 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 Jonasson Rosas, seconded, by Board Member Thomas, the Board took action in Closed Session to lateral Xee Moua to Principal of Vang Pao 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 Clerk Levine, seconded, by Board President Islas, the Board took action in Closed Session to internally hire Michelle Parker to Executive Director of Health Services, by a roll call vote of 6-1-0-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. NOES: Board Member Wittrup.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded, by Board Member Thomas, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Paoze Lee to Chief Technology Officer of the Information Technology Department, to replace our current Chief Technology Officer, Tami Lundberg upon her retirement, 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.

Recognition

At this time, the Board recognized district staff members Isaias Diaz, Gerald Garcia, Roberto Mejia, and community member Maricela Pacheco. Mrs. Pacheco acted swiftly to intervene in a carjacking and potential kidnapping. Grounds team members Mr. Diaz, Mr. Garcia, and Mr. Mejia responded at once, aided in restraining the suspect until authorities arrived, and helped prevent harm to the children. The Board expressed their formal appreciation and presented a token of recognition for their bravery and service.

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 the California School Employees Association, Chapter 125 Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Discuss and Approve the California School Employees Association, Chapter 125 Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2025/26 Reopener 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 California School Employees Association, Chapter 125 Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

B2, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter 125 for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-2, Discuss and Approve the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter 125 for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement.

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

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter 125 for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

B-3, DISCUSS and APPROVE the California School Employees Association, Chapter 143 Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-5, Discuss and Approve the California School Employees Association, Chapter 143 Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement.

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

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved the California School Employees Association, Chapter 143 Initial Proposal to Fresno Unified School District for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

B-4, DISCUSS and APPROVE the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter 143 for 2025/26 Reopener Agreement

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-4, Discuss and Approve the Fresno Unified School District Initial Proposal to California School Employees Association, Chapter 143 for the 2025/26 Reopener 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 Unified School District Initial Proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter 143 for the 2025/26 Reopener Agreement, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

B-5, PRESENT and DISCUSS Long Term Enrollment Projections

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-5, Present and Discuss Long Term Enrollment Projections.

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

Member Jonasson Rosas felt compelled to speak as her character and intentions around this item have been called into question. Jonasson Rosas clarified that her position is neither in support of nor in opposition to SEDA, though Jonasson Rosas does not believe the subject aligns with the goals the Board has set for themselves, and that nearly every decision made by legislative bodies affects children, because policies related to food, pesticides, transportation, and land use touch families and a student's ability to learn.

Jonasson Rosas commented that separation of powers and jurisdiction exists for a reason, commenting on being elected to govern a school district for the children of Fresno and Jonasson Rosas takes that responsibility seriously even when facing disagreement from people whom she respects.

Jonasson Rosas commented that if the Board wants families to choose Fresno Unified—and compete with master planned communities being built throughout Fresno County, the answer lies within Fresno Unified. Schools are a primary factor in where families decide to live. Fresno Unified has great programs, great people, and the Board is getting to where we all row in the same direction. The Board has the power to make Fresno Unified excellent, responsive, and so focused on students that it becomes a reason people move to Fresno Unified. Jonasson Rosas commented that that is the Board's lane and that is where Jonasson Rosas thinks the Board should stay.

Jonasson Rosas referenced two years ago the Board made a commitment to Student Outcomes Focused Governance specifically to keep the Board focused on student outcomes. Jonasson Rosas commented on being proud of the progress the Board and district have made and is not willing to go back—to go back to issues that have nothing to do with teaching a child to read or do math.

Jonasson Rosas requested the Board's Student Outcomes Focused Governance coach be invited to address the Board and provide opinion on this topic in view of the governance model the Board has adopted.

Member Cazares commented that the issues of enrollment projections, reduction in enrollment, and any impact thereof are issues the Board has been talking about for the last year and a half. Superintendent Her is looking at every possible solution to a reduced enrollment and budget, and the Board is strategically making a map and plan to limit impact to students and parents.

Member Cazares referenced slides no. eight (8) and ten (10) and asked whether the district has considered how it will manage future enrollment and the children living in new development areas. Cazares requested additional information about unit counts and types and number of students coming to Fresno Unified and to which schools.

Cazares noted that as the Board maps and plans what the district will look like over the next five years everything must be balanced with consolidations and special education movement and be included in the Superintendent's analysis—Cazares does not want the district to be in a position of having forgotten to plan for something.

Member Cazares encouraged the district when these types of items come forward to reach out to city planners for a workshop.

Member Wittrup thanked Members Jonasson Rosas and Cazares for their observations and comments. Wittrup asked if the district has a SEDA educational impact report completed by a third party.

Member Wittrup stated that the Board's primary responsibility is to improve student outcomes in Fresno Unified as seven (7) out of every ten (10) students do not read at grade level and every bit of the district's time and energy should be directed toward changing this trajectory. Member Wittrup commended that Fresno Unified schools are imposing educational harm and families are seeking solutions. The district's focus should be addressing the root causes of poor academic performance and chronic poor attendance. Member Wittrup commented that when our schools are fully functioning with effective instruction and interventions, families will stay.

Member Wittrup commented that while schools may be affected by land use and development those decisions belong to the Fresno City Council and mayor, not the school Board, and respecting governance boundaries allows the Board to focus on student outcomes.

Member Wittrup called on the City of Fresno to commission an independent, third-party education impact report that should include an honest assessment of the potential impact on students, particularly those students already enrolled in chronically under-performing schools.

Student Member Souksamlane noted that during his three years serving on the Student Advisory Board and this year as a student board member, trustees have rarely attended the advisory meetings where students review and discuss district board agenda items prior to board meetings.

Member Souksamlane commented that these meetings are important because these meetings are where authentic student voice is gathered from students across the entire district. In recent discussions, the perspectives shared were not solely Member Souksamlane's, students have taken the initiative to conduct their own research examining how Trustees in their respective regions engage with and communicate with students. Member Souksamlane commented that consistently the feedback has been the same: students rarely see their Trustees and when interactions do occur, they are often brief appearances such as photo opportunities rather than meaningful engagement.

Student Member Souksamlane shared on behalf of the Student Advisory Board, reflecting the collective voice of students and based on student feedback and discussions, students do not support SEDA.

Member Thomas shared a few follow-up requests regarding the analysis and asked staff to look into the number of houses included in the Southwest Specific Plan as this area is in the inner city and is important to understand; particularly, more detail on developments such as West Creek Village.

Member Thomas pointed out at this time not being ready to take a position on SEDA because not all necessary information has been received. Member Thomas commented it would be helpful to have the additional information compiled into a board communication as this would allow for a more informed decision.

Member Thomas commented that an area for a closer look may be the West Specific Plan for Central Unified as it is likely to be built out more quickly than the Southeast Specific Plan which may take 20 or more years for full development. Member Thomas recognized there is a significant amount of detailed information to review and would appreciate more clarity moving forward.

Member Thomas commented that while the Board's primary role is to support student learning, it is also important that students understand what is happening in their community. This presents a valuable teaching opportunity for them—to learn about development, governance, and to observe how trustees work through complex decisions to serve the district.

Clerk Levine expressed appreciation for the presentation and commented that it spoke to the bigger picture of enrollment projections and the multiple factors at play, declining birth rates, charter schools, home schools, and people moving into neighboring districts. All of which the Board has been aware of for some time.

Clerk Levine commented that SEDA fits as one component within that broader context, that there is a bit of a false choice—or false equivalency—being made. Addressing proposals that may impact students, whether positively or negatively, is not separate from the Board's focus on governance and student outcomes, it is part of that work, not an either/or it is a both/and.

Clerk Levine requested clarity related to the enrollment projections tied to the proposal and commented that SchoolWorks estimated the original plan could result in a loss of approximately 160 students per year and asked if this was still accurate as there may have been updates following the presentation to the City Council in December.

Clerk Levine noted that this feeling of a false choice—that the Board weighs in on things that they are concerned about— impact on students in Fresno Unified or staying focused on student focused governance—it is both for Clerk Levine; and as the plan was originally proposed, the impact on students, not just to care about enrollment and the bottom line, it is an impact on the services the district is able to offer to students that are in Fresno Unified that the Board has been elected and called to serve.

Clerk Levine commented that for him it is a good example of Student Outcomes Focused Governance, making sure the district has the resources and focus available to serve students and improve outcomes as called for and outlined as a Board.

Clerk Levine asked Superintendent Her if/when the school boundary discussion will take place.

President Islas expressed appreciation for the discussion and commented that while not agreeing on everything, Islas thinks the Board agrees on most things and are all interested in trying to improve student outcomes. President Islas thanked Student Member Souksamlane for being a strong voice for students, commenting that student voice has been missing and is very much needed.

President Islas commented that the district is in a place of having to cut positions and challenged with how to meet the district's retirement commitments. President Islas noted that the district is going to experience continued increase in healthcare costs due to the loss of employees and a smaller risk pool.

President Islas expressed the desire of wanting the district to stand and to achieve the goals of promoting positive student outcomes, but the projections tell a different story, commenting that it is important to accept and safeguard from creating a steeper decline as fiscal solvency is the Board's responsibility; positions are being cut because the district does not have the resources to sustain the positions due to lower enrollment and lost ADA. Islas reiterated that fiscal solvency is the Board's responsibility.

President Islas invited Patrick Jensen to the podium and requested clarity as to what the decrease in budget is for lost ADA. Upon hearing that \$17,000 per student totals \$17 million per a thousand students President Islas commented this is not a cut the district can afford to continue to take and reinforced that the district can advocate for Fresno Unified and still fight for improved student outcomes; that taking a vote on a resolution today does not prevent the Board from advancing Student Outcomes Focused Governance.

For the record, Paul Idsvoog and Patrick Jensen were available to provide clarity.

At this time, President Islas turned to A.J. Crabill. Mr. Crabill is with the Council of the Great City Schools and a coach to the Board.

After comments by Mr. Crabill, Board President Islas turned to public comment on the Consent Agenda.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received nineteen (19) public requests to speak on the Consent Agenda. The individual's name with a summary of topic is as follows:

1. Gloria Hernandez shared concerns about the district failing students.
2. Kay Bertken shared surprise that the Board and Superintendent were not voicing concerns about any SEDA Plan that would invest limited resources outside of the city limits and neighborhoods. Bertken commented that both the city and school district serve the same constituents and families. Bertken asked the Board to imagine those proposed resources from SEDA being invested within the city limits providing livable homes on safer, well-lit streets, parks, cleaner air, and public amenities that would improve the lives of the children whom the Board serves. Bertken asked the Board not to return to the days of silos of responsibility, commenting that thriving kids depend on decisions of all public agencies.
3. Patience Milrod encouraged the Board to be more courageous and thoughtful about their job, commenting that Board members have neighborhoods for and to whom they are responsible. Milrod commented that the Board is not deciding on the SEDA Plan but giving the city information and inviting the city to a crucial conversation that the public is relying on the Board to have on the public's behalf.
4. Keith Bergthold thanked the Board for struggling with this issue as it is about fiscal resources, and the district has assets that need to be conserved and not depleted. The issues in terms of land use and decisions by the city are interrelated and interdependent with the Board's responsibilities as stewards of the district budget. Bergthold shared that the City of Fresno is proposing a 9,000-acre expansion area that does not have a single City of Fresno resident. Bergthold commented that there are over 70,000 units of capacity that can be developed within Fresno, Central, and Washington Unified School Districts and the focus should be there rather than sprawl.

5. Rev. Simon Biasell commented that SEDA is not new, it is not a new idea for the City of Fresno, the mayor, and councilmembers to propose investing in the neighborhoods of other school districts. Rev. Biasell recalled a time in the 80's of hearing of friends' families moving out of Fresno Unified to go to another district thinking it would be better for their children. Rev. Biasell now raises children in Fresno Unified, and commented on knowing the significant impact the culture, the mindset that if we want what is best for our families we have to move outside of this district can have, commenting that this mindset should concern all of us and we are going to have to change the culture; we cannot just take a vote, we cannot just talk, we have to change the culture of our community to it is not best to move outside of Fresno Unified but to continue to invest in our city.
6. Andy Hansen Smith shared that because it will result in a further decline in enrollment, he urged the Board to vote in favor of the resolution opposing SEDA.
7. Michael Dunlop encouraged the Board to hold a vote tonight and not to table the SEDA resolution, commenting that those in the room know that SEDA will cause a decline in district enrollment, a loss of funding, and for schools within Fresno Unified to close. Dunlop commented that the constituents of Fresno Unified have a right to know where Board members stand on the issues and should vote either way.
8. Rhonda Dueck shared deep concerns for the advancement of the SEDA Plan, commenting it will seriously impact existing neighborhoods within Fresno Unified. Dueck pointed out how Central Unified responded to this topic and unanimously approved a resolution opposing SEDA. Dueck addressed the idea of "staying in our lanes" and commented it seemed some Board members were more interested in staying friends with the mayor, developer friends, or being loyal to the nearby city they work for and protecting political aspirations rather than putting Fresno Unified School District as the priority. Dueck commented that the current budget issues that Fresno Unified is facing will be felt on an even larger scale in years to come if SEDA is passed as it currently stands.
9. Sarah Valentine shared of being a parent, a neighbor, and someone who works directly with children and families every day. Valentine commented on originally living in the Bay Area and has seen what happens when developments move forward without including schools, families, and neighborhoods in the conversation; on seeing communities get pushed out, schools become overcrowded and underserved. Valentine came tonight to say no to SEDA, commenting it is a school's issue and any development that brings thousands of new homes without guaranteed funding for classrooms, teachers, transportation, and student support will directly impact Fresno Unified. Valentine commented that pretending SEDA is not a school issue does not protect students, it protects the developers. Valentine commented that Fresno is strongest when parents, educators, neighbors, and leaders stand together, and make decisions rooted in responsibility, equity, and long-term vision. Valentine asked the Board to oppose SEDA as it stands and to protect students.

10. Daniel O'Connell spoke of work on how school segregation and institutionalized racism functioned in a rural farm worker town and of research mapping the geography in the Central Valley and of how using narrative on how federal infrastructure and socioeconomic policies were designed to benefit a handful of landowners over rural residents, especially farm workers. O'Connell spoke of Farmland loss being instrumentally connected to urban decay, commenting SEDA is a structural threat, condemning Fresno to disinvestment for another generation and no amount of public subsidy or mitigation will fill this gap. O'Connell spoke of private investors following public policy and polluting those policies through campaign contributions. O'Connell commented this issue is an existential threat.
11. Brandon Vang spoke as a private citizen and came to listen to the concerns of students, parents, and staff, commenting that SEDA will have enormous, lifelong consequences. Vang commented that we need to continue to have additional discussions on SEDA and to make the best decisions for students because they are our future.
12. Ivan Paz spoke about the importance of resident empowerment and civic participation, drawing on personal experience collaborating with many community residents. Paz highlighted the significant growth in community engagement over recent decades, noting increased attendance and mobilization at city hearings and grassroots involvement beyond formal leadership structures. Paz emphasized the value of meaningful democratic participation, sharing examples of how community efforts have successfully led to improvements such as traffic controls, stop signs, speed bumps, and signals. These outcomes reinforce residents' belief that their voices matter. Paz cautioned that making participation difficult or disregarding community input can undermine trust and discourage engagement. Paz referenced concerns about broader challenges to democratic processes and stressed the importance of maintaining momentum, particularly in communities affected by urban decay. Paz urged the Board to carefully consider the impact of their decision, noting that it could either reinforce residents' confidence in civic participation or hinder it.
13. Ariana Martinez Lott Ariana Martinez-Lott spoke as a parent of two children in the Birney neighborhood and a longtime community member. She expressed appreciation for the student board members and their advocacy on behalf of students and the community. Martinez Lott shared personal perspective based on over 15 years of work in underserved neighborhoods, emphasizing that factors outside the classroom significantly impact student success. Martinez Lott described challenges faced by families at Birney Elementary, including limited transportation access, noting that some parents must keep children home on rainy days due to unsafe walking conditions, including the need to cross a busy street without a traffic signal, resulting in lost instructional time. Martinez Lott also highlighted housing-related issues observed during the pandemic, including families living in substandard conditions such as mold, which contributed to chronic health problems like asthma and increased absenteeism.

Additionally, Martinez Lott referenced conditions in the Mayfair neighborhood, including boarded-up properties and lack of safe access to parks, which negatively affect students' well-being and educational outcomes. Martinez-Lott acknowledged concerns about declining student enrollment but emphasized the need to focus on students who lack access to upward mobility. Martinez Lott encouraged collaboration with City Council officials to prioritize investments in underserved neighborhoods that directly impact students and their educational experiences. Martinez Lott urged decision-makers to stand with the community in opposing policies that have contributed to current inequities and to prioritizing support for families most affected by these conditions.

14. Manuel Bonilla, President of the Fresno Teachers Association, addressed the Board as a representative of approximately 4,600 educators, school nurses, and trades professionals, and as a parent of three students in Fresno Unified. Bonilla began by commending the student board members for demonstrating strong leadership in recent meetings. Bonilla acknowledged discussion regarding the Board's purview, noting that while the Board may not have authority to approve or deny the plan, members have a responsibility to advocate for those they represent. Bonilla expressed concern that the proposed plan would negatively impact students and the broader community, emphasizing the connection between community conditions and classroom outcomes. Bonilla urged the Board to support the resolution as a means of participating in the democratic process and communicating these concerns to the city. Bonilla also referenced historical instances where school boards did not advocate for students, stating the importance of learning from past decisions. Bonilla encouraged the Board not to repeat such patterns and to act in support of students and educators.
15. Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula thanked the Board for holding this public discussion. He noted that he represents half of Fresno County, including 62% of the City of Fresno, as well as Fowler, Parlier, Selma, Sanger, and Orange Cove. A proud graduate of Fresno Unified, with daughters currently attending district schools, he emphasized his personal and professional investment in the district's success. Arambula stated that while he does not have jurisdiction over district decisions, he felt compelled to speak because of concerns about declining enrollment and the district's financial outlook. He referenced the district's projected \$136 million budget shortfall and continued enrollment decline over the next six years and asked how the Board plans to keep student achievement at the center of its work under these conditions. He also questioned how the Board can remain responsive to students if it is unable to fully address related land use decisions and emphasized the importance of listening to student voices. Arambula expressed concern about the tone used with students and emphasized the need for respect and inclusion, noting that today's students are future leaders who will shape the district and community. Arambula warned that inaction could lead to worsening financial challenges, including difficult staffing decisions, and stressed that decisions made now will have long-term consequences.

16. Artie Padilla commented on having served Fresno Unified since 2002 in various roles, including work on campuses, in classrooms, and in neighborhood advocacy. He reflected on the many students and families he has supported over the years and expressed concern about the long-term effects of continued development patterns. Padilla stated that past sprawl has contributed to declining neighborhood conditions and questioned the impact of continued expansion in southeast Fresno. He noted that there is broad agreement that the original SEDA proposal is not financially feasible, including statements made by the mayor. He explained that the resolution reflects this concern and calls for a more viable alternative. Padilla urged the Board to support the resolution, emphasizing the potential fiscal impact on neighborhoods, schools, and housing. He acknowledged the efforts of community members and encouraged the Board to work collaboratively in support of Fresno Unified students and families.
17. Harim Singh urged the Board to vote in favor of the resolution and noted that the student board members and student advisory committee reviewed the proposal and opposed it. Singh acknowledged that Board members may be hesitant to take positions to preserve relationships but emphasized that taking a position reflects values, clarifies viewpoints, and creates a public record. Singh stated that addressing issues that impact neighborhoods, families, and school-related tax revenues is part of the Board's responsibility. Singh added that school boards commonly weigh in on broader community issues, as they affect the conditions in which students live and learn. He encouraged the Board to serve as advocates for families and recognized the students for taking a clear stance on the issue.
18. Naindeep Singh addressed the Board, stating that the importance of the issue extends beyond what constitutes the Board's jurisdiction. Singh expressed appreciation for the Board's focus on student outcomes, results, and learning but emphasized that the community also consists of people, families, and neighborhoods, and is looking toward the Board's values? Singh urged the Board to function as advocates and champions for the district, highlighting the need for leadership that supports and represents the whole community, like the Board's focus on the whole child. Singh expressed hope that the Board would take these perspectives to heart and reaffirm its commitment to serving and standing up for Fresno Unified families.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C2, C4, and C13 that were pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

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 April 22, 2026.

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 and Superintendent Her provided comments about agenda item C-2. A summary of their feedback is below:

Superintendent Her commented that as the Superintendent, she has a moral responsibility to the children and families of the district and will always stand for students whom she loves and are the reasons she is in the role of superintendent. Her provided a point of clarity in that the superintendent is prohibited from speaking on behalf of the district until the Board takes action.

Superintendent Her commended the Board for focusing on students by embarking on Student Outcomes Focused Governance.

Superintendent Her commented that the resolution tonight is to oppose SEDA as it was originally planned; but Superintendent Her and staff stand ready to work with the city on the redesigned and reimagining of this plan and look forward to being at the table, having a voice, and to collaborating with the city.

Member Thomas noted that during a Legislative Committee meeting that Member Thomas preferred to postpone this matter until the next plan became available. Member Thomas emphasized the importance of hearing those in attendance and making decisions that best represent the interest of the Board, students, and community, commenting, "I hear you."

Member Cazares shared that in twenty-six (26) years of professional experience she has never been publicly shamed for her work. Cazares noted that this may be because people are unaware of her day job. Member Cazares shared on dedicating a professional life to building safe communities and affordable housing for low-income neighborhoods, working for the City of Fresno as well as another city. Member Cazares commented on being a proud affordable housing advocate.

Member Cazares read the statement as follows:

“Item C2 on tonight’s agenda is a resolution pertaining to the Southeast Development Area Plan. I am currently employed by the City of Clovis and have been involved in the development of similar plans, particularly as they relate to new housing units and affordable housing units. Because both SEDA and the City of Clovis planning department are engaged in similar planning efforts, and given my professional involvement in these areas, my participation in this matter could present an actual perceived conflict of interest. Therefore, out of the abundance of caution and the interest of full transparency I am abstaining from this vote, pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270”.

On a motion by Board President Islas, seconded by Board Clerk Levine the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-65, Opposing the Southeast Development Area Plan, by a roll call vote of 4-0-3-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Davis, Thomas, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Members Cazares, Jonasson Rosas, and Wittrup.

C-3, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-80, Authorizing Filing of Applications for the State Allocation Board Administered Career Technical Education Facilities Program

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-80.

C-4, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-83, Recognizing May 13, 2026, as Day of the Teacher

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-83.

For the record, Board Members provided comments about agenda item C-4. A summary of Board Member feedback is below:

Member Cazares called out that teachers are one of the most important positions of the district, commenting that many of us have memories of our favorite teacher. Cazares commented on personally having a favorite, a fourth-grade teacher at Eaton Elementary School that took in Cazares’ child when the child moved from Yokomi to Eaton; making Cazares’ child feel loved, welcomed, and appreciated. Cazares shared that she will never forget Ms. Johannes.

Member Thomas called out her favorite fourth-grade teacher Ms. Eastman, favorite Geometry teacher Mr. Fuller, and Mr. Gaston. Member Thomas commended the great teachers that have been in her life and the great teachers that work for this city.

Member Davis shared of coming from a family of teachers that taught in Fresno Unified. Member Davis expressed gratitude on behalf of three generations of teachers.

At this time, Laura Garcia was called to the podium. On behalf of the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE), Ms. Garcia thanked the Board for the resolution. Garcia shared the history of Dia del Maestro/Day of the Teacher and announced that AMAE will host a banquet on Friday. During the event, ten (10) Fresno Unified students will be awarded scholarships, and several teachers and administrators will be recognized with AMAE awards.

President Islas shared appreciation for the wonderful teachers she had growing up; teachers that drove hours to get to rural schools. President Islas shared that the first Mexican American teacher she had was in the sixth-grade, Dr. Arnold Sanchez who inspired Islas' love of writing and made going to college seem possible.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-83, Recognizing May 13, 2026, as Day of the Teacher, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

C-5, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-84, Recognizing May 21, 2026, as Friday Night Live Day
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-84.

C-6, APPROVE Personnel List
APPROVED as recommended, the personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.

C-7, APPROVE Meeting Minutes
APPROVED as recommended, draft minutes of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education regular meeting held April 22, 2026.

C-8, APPROVE Appointment to the Audit Committee
APPROVED as recommended, the appointment of Susan Bartlett to the Fresno Unified School District Audit Committee.

C-9, APPROVE Appointment to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee
APPROVED as recommended, appointment to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) of Marcelino Valdez, nominated by Trustee Susan Wittrup.

C-10, APPROVE the Fresno Unified Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan, May 2026

APPROVED as recommended, the updated Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) plan for Fresno Unified School District. This plan outlines the utilization of funding from the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide comprehensive after-school and intersession (winter and summer) enrichment programs.

C-11, APPROVE Perkins V Application for Funding

APPROVED as recommended, a request to approve the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) grant applications for both secondary and postsecondary Career Technical Education programs.

C-12, RATIFY Purchase Orders from February 01, 2026, through February 28, 2026 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from February 01, 2026, through February 28, 2026 - Primary Report. 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 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-13, RATIFY Purchase Orders from February 01, 2026, through February 28, 2026 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from February 01, 2026, through February 28, 2026 - Supplemental Report. 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 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-13 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and California State University, Fresno, the CSUF/Association, 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 Member Cazares, the Board ratified Purchase Orders from February 01, 2026, through February 28, 2026 – Supplemental Report, by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Mayes and Souksamlane; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, and President Islas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Clerk Levine.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received one (1) public request to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Gabriela Sanchez shared concerns related to an incident that took place at Edison High School involving Gabriela Sanchez's child. Sanchez commented on not feeling students are safe at school and there is nobody there to protect students. Sanchez commented on speaking with school administrators, but Sanchez does not feel heard.

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

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 9:05 p.m.