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 27, 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 27, 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 4:30 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 no public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of agenda items as follows:

A1. Receive the Fresno Unified School District Third Quarterly Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2025/26.
A2, Receive Information Disclosing the Actual Cost Information for the Sale of the General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2020, Series D.
A3, Receive Constituent Services Quarterly Reporting.
A4, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Bylaws.
A5, Receive Proposed Revisions for Board Policies.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 7:58 p.m.

At this time President Islas asked the Board to consider moving Unscheduled Oral Communications to an earlier position on the agenda.

On a motion by President Islas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved to move Unscheduled Oral Communications to an earlier position on the agenda, 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.

Upon approval, Unscheduled Oral Communications was moved before the Conference and Discussion Agenda.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Wittrup, seconded, by Board Member Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny a Minor, Claim No. GL25-1031-17699, 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 Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session to Deny Hla Ali, Claim No. GL25-1122-17524, 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 Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to internally hire Xiong Vang to Principal of Edison – Computech 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 Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to internally hire Andrew Simpson to Principal of Lincoln 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 Wittrup, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session to internally hire Michael Guerra to Principal of Powers 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 Thomas, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Javan Childs to Deputy Executive, Human Resources, 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 Student Board Members Elijah Mayes from Sunnyside High School; Jonaven Souksamlane from Duncan Polytechnical High School, and alternate Madison Carey from the Farber Educational Campus. The Board expressed formal appreciation for their 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received twenty-eight (28) public requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual’s name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Leah Loutherback asked the Board to pay attention to what they are doing, commenting if parents do not trust the school district the achievement gap will not close.
2. Corina Lozoya, a school bus driver here with like workers demanding that the Board show leadership and listen to workers’ concerns which impact households in Fresno every day.

3. Debbie Acosta advocated on behalf of classified workers and provided a powerful reminder of keeping the workforce can save lives.
4. Lucas Cha shared concerns related to the Coordination of Benefits through BMI about a termination letter and would like the district to investigate this issue.
5. James Kreb presented signatures of SEIU members asking the Board to recognize that the members have to earn a living wage and to join work with them to find solutions.
6. Deshunna Ricks, West Fresno resident and social justice advocate, urged the Board to stand with SEIU and support employees, warning of negative impacts on students and families if they do not act.
7. Daniel O'Connell, Central Valley Partnership director, shared concern for classified workers, noting their broad community impact and urging the Board to support them amid ongoing anxiety and instability.
8. Riley Telford (SEIU 521 VP) emphasized the vital role of classified staff, urging fair treatment, resolution of contract negotiations, and use of expected funds to prevent worker hardship.
9. Ray Leone highlighted classified employees as essential to school communities and the local economy, urging job protection and consideration of promotions during difficult times.
10. Councilmember Mike Carbasi urged the Board not to cut classified staff, criticizing lack of top-level reductions and warning of harm to student outcomes and the local economy.
11. Omar Hernandez stressed that classified staff (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians) are essential to student well-being and school operations, urging their protection.
12. Destiny Caraway (Women's Elite Hoops) highlighted community impact and requested partnership with the district to expand youth access to facilities and programs.
13. Sade Williams (Go Public Schools) supported literacy reforms but urged proper implementation of reading screeners, including clear communication and effective intervention.
14. Octavio Ceballos supported literacy screening, recommending multiple assessments yearly, timely parent communication, and alignment with conferences to strengthen family engagement.
15. Cosette Ceballos emphasized using screener data effectively, training educators, equipping families, and publicly sharing results to improve literacy outcomes districtwide.
16. Desiree Miller stressed that screening alone is insufficient, calling for strong implementation, resources, and family collaboration to improve literacy outcomes.
17. Monet Sychman ceded time to Dr. Chantelle Cox
18. Dr. Chantelle Cox described serious, unaddressed safety threats against interpreters, reporting lack of district response despite documented incidents and risks.

19. Stephanie Murphy ceded time to Javier Madrigal.
20. Javier Madrigal ceded time to Suzanne Bradford.
21. Suzanne Bradford detailed repeated death threats against interpreters, lack of administrative action, unsafe conditions, and failure to follow policies or investigate incidents.
22. Stacy Houtz ceded time to Shelley Smith.
23. Shelley Smith criticized the district's response as dismissive, questioned policy compliance, and demanded accountability and safety measures for threatened staff.
24. Lisa Hemingway carried on for Shelley—and emphasized interpreters' commitment to students but demanded safe working conditions, consistent policy enforcement, and meaningful collaboration from the district.
25. Kathleen Dirksen commented on being a community interpreter here to support fellow interpreters,
26. Benjamin Estrada stated staff followed reporting protocols, questioned district follow-through, and requested direct engagement, policy adherence, and restoration of sick leave.
27. Christina Homes McIntyre cofounder of Fresno Community Parent Coalition raised concerns about union involvement in parent-teacher mediation and urged better oversight of collective bargaining agreement compliance.
28. Matthew Gillian highlighted the emotional and supportive role classified staff play for students, urging the Board to recognize their broader impact and importance.

For the record, President Islas invited staff to the podium to provide clarification regarding reductions within the classified employee group, clarifying that Fresno Unified is eliminating positions—not employees; and to confirm whether Fresno Unified has cut any positions at the administrative level.

For the record, David Chavez, Chief of Human Resources and Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer, were available to provide clarity.

B. CONFERENCE AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-1, DISCUSS and ACCEPT the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report – May 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 – May 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 Wittrup commented on being pleased to see examples of achievement and of being impressed at a past visit to Roeding Elementary School. Member Wittrup asked why the district did not make the target and what strategies Superintendent Her believes the district needs in place to do better with the next one.

Member Wittrup commented that the two strongest pieces of literacy are good first instruction and evidence-based interventions and expressed concern that these two important practices are not consistently evident. Member Wittrup asked how the district can strengthen first instruction so that the district can learn from it and improve practices.

Member Cazares expressed appreciations to hear there are classes in Fresno Unified like Mrs. Bustos at Roeding, and several within the Hoover Region that have met or exceeded performance targets. Member Cazares noted that the district appears to understand what is needed at each school to make gains and asked how the district plans to replicate these successful practices more quickly across other schools, asking if there is a sense of urgency, and commenting that the district is losing students every year to graduation and the students could be reading and writing better.

Member Cazares shared that one motivation for running for office was the excellent instruction she observed at Yokomi Elementary School and a desire to see that same level of instruction at all schools. Member Cazares referenced previous discussions suggesting that at times it may be a school culture issue. Member Cazares emphasized the importance of intentional placement of educators, to be deliberate about who is placed in the classrooms for the first level of instruction.

Member Cazares further asked how the district can shift students' mindsets so that reading is not perceived as a punishment but instead as a positive activity. Cazares also commented on the Board's priority of involving parents in their child's educational journey and asked what parent engagement looked like at Roeding.

Member Jonasson Rosas referenced the meeting versus not meeting information presented and noted that within the not meeting there are schools scoring anywhere from zero to ten percent and asked how the district differentiating support to make sure those schools catch up, how will the district get to those low scores. Jonasson Rosas asked how the data is used to make sure the district will meet the overall goal and any needed interventions at the same time. Member Jonasson Rosas asked what the district is doing for Summer School.

President Islas commented that when reviewing this particular data point Islas would like to know who is not moving in relation to gaps that exist between student groups and what disadvantages the district is trying to address. Islas would like the district to find ways that support special education students that allow students the opportunity to grow. Islas asked staff if there was any reflection about who may be struggling the most, commenting that assumptions can be made based on geography and where schools are located whether it be levels of affluence or deep-seated poverty, and children of immigrants whose parents had little educational opportunities.

Clerk Levine commended the staff at Roeding for their exceptional work. He acknowledged that, while the district is projecting progress toward this interim goal, the gains are not yet at the level desired—but expressed confidence that they will come.

Clerk Levine also recognized Superintendent Her's point that the district intentionally set a high bar. The goal was not to settle for incremental gains, but to aim high and maintain that standard. There is a shared expectation that, once these efforts fully take hold, progress will accelerate, similar to what has been seen in other districts the team has engaged with.

Clerk Levine then addressed Principal Duran, noting that Roeding has been on this improvement journey for some time and that the strategies showing success likely took years to fully develop and gain traction. Clerk Levine asked, from Principal Duran's experience, whether there was a particular moment or strategy that marked a turning point—when progress shifted from gradual, incremental growth to more significant gains. Specifically, Clerk Levine was curious if there was a point at which Principal Duran and team recognized that their efforts were about to elevate to a new level.

Member Thomas commented that this issue is important because, as a teacher, it can be very challenging when everyone looks to you to fix it right now, and that is not always so easy. Member Thomas noted that students also experience pressure due to newer learning styles, especially if they have not learned foundational skills at home. These challenges are just a few concerns facing both educators and students.

Member Thomas suggested that to support new students, particularly those entering school for the first time, the district should consider how it can provide clear, accessible information to parents through its website prior to enrollment.

Member Thomas inquired about how student growth is communicated and demonstrated to students, as well as areas for improvement are shared with parents. Additionally, Member Thomas requested a preview of the tracking system used to monitor student progress.

Member Davis referenced attendance and seeing every classroom's weekly data displayed really makes an impact. When information is posted on the walls, in places like the cafeteria or along the path to the library, it becomes very visible and naturally creates a sense of peer accountability.

Member Davis asked how the Board can best support this effort, to help maximize success, whether it is improving attendance or overall student outcomes. What can the Board do to provide meaningful support at a broader level? Member Davis shared on getting involved and making a commitment to dedicating a few hours a week to working directly with a small group of students.

Member Davis asked if data walls track only attendance, or do they include academic performance as well? And who handles maintaining and updating those data walls?

For the record, Superintendent Her, Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., as well as Principal Debbie Duran from Roeding, were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board accepted the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Monitoring Report for May 2026, 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, PRESENT and DISCUSS the State's May Revised Budget Proposal

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-2, Present and Discuss the State's May Revised Budget Proposal.

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

Member Thomas asked that the district does not make the same mistake as with the COVID one-time funds, commenting that one-time funds should be used in a way intended to make sure the district is not put in a position to lay people off once those funds are gone.

Member Thomas expressed appreciation for the additional funding for special education students, noting they deserve it. Member Thomas emphasized the importance of using the funds thoughtfully and suggested discussing offline how to clearly communicate this to the public to avoid the perception that there is a large influx of money.

Member Thomas expressed appreciation for the presentation and the hard work of staff.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked whether any assumptions have changed in terms of items the Board previously expected to cut that are no longer necessary. Jonasson Rosas requested clarity on projections for 2027/28 and asked if the current course continues will the district have approximately $20 million more.

Member Cazares requested clarity as to whether the Learning Recovery block grant and the Student Support block grants are one-time or on-going funds. Member Cazares noted difficulty understanding why the district is using the Student Support block grant to pay for PARS and asked staff to explain why that is the best choice.

Member Cazares requested staff to use Student Support Block grant funds for student-centered initiatives with the understanding that General Fund dollars would then be freed up to pay for PARS.

Student Member Souksamlane requested clarity as to the increase in technology costs.

For the record, Patrick Jensen was available to provide clarity.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received no public requests to speak on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C6 that was 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 May 13, 2026.

C-2, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-81, Authorizing District Agents to Establish Commercial Card Accounts with U.S. Bank National Association
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-81.

C-3, ADOPT Resolution No. 26-82, Emergency Flood Restoration at Fresno High School
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 26-82.

C-4, APPROVE Personnel List
APPROVED as recommended, the personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.

C-5, APPROVE Meeting Minutes
APPROVED as recommended, draft minutes of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education special meeting held May 11, 2026, and the regular meeting held May 13, 2026.

C-6, APPROVE Proposed Revisions for Board Policies
APPROVED as recommended, revisions for thirteen Board Policies (BP) as follows: BP 3470 Debt Issuance and Management; BP 4020 Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace; BP 4030 Nondiscrimination in Employment; BP 4033 Lactation Accommodation; BP 4115 Evaluation/Supervision; BP 4119.21, 4219.21,4319.21 Professional Standards; BP 4119.24, 4219.24, 4319.24 Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student Interactions (NEW); BP 4136, 4236, 4336 Non-school Employment (NEW); BP 4216 Probationary/Permanent Status; BP 4218 Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action; BP 4315 Evaluation/Supervision; BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention; and BP 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

For the record, Board Members provided comments and raised questions about agenda item C-6. A summary of Board Member feedback is below:

Member Jonasson Rosas requested a typo be corrected in BP4033 Lactation Accommodation.

Member Jonasson Rosas recommended clarifying language on inappropriate conduct, specifically regarding visits to a student's home without parent or guardian consent, and defining what constitutes consent. Jonasson Rosas also raised concerns about potential underreporting of mandated incidents, emphasizing the need for clear understanding of inappropriate behaviors and associated liability, noting that actions intended to build connections may still be perceived as inappropriate.

Member Cazares suggested refining language in future revisions, noting that terms such as "inappropriate physical contact" and "inappropriate socialization or fraternization" are too general. She recommended clearer definitions to ensure consistent standards across the district and to better protect students.

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved agenda item C-6, Approve Proposed Revisions for Board Policies with the provided friendly amendments by a 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-7, APPROVE Addition to Legal Services Agreements for 2025/26
APPROVED as recommended, a document listing two additional legal firms recommended for approval to provide legal services to Fresno Unified School District during the 2025/26 fiscal year.

C-8, APPROVE Amendment No. One to the Agreement with Delta Health Systems TeamCare
APPROVED as recommended, Amendment No. One to the agreement with Delta Health Systems TeamCare for employee wellness program administrative services.

C-9, APPROVE Award of Bid No. 26-40, Farber Educational Campus Outdoor Basketball Court Installation Rebid
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid No. 26-40, Farber Educational Campus Outdoor Basketball Court Installation (Rebid). The project will add two outdoor basketball courts, lighting, fencing and associated site work.

C-10, APPROVE Award of Bid No. 26-41, Farber Educational Campus South Building D Renovations
APPROVED as recommended, information on Bid No. 26-41, Farber Educational Campus South Building D Renovations. The project will add an exterior shade canopy and outdoor seating to the entrance of the building. The project will also include roof replacement and exterior façade improvements.

C-11, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposals No. 26-22, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposals No. 26-22, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) to establish fixed pricing for delivery of fresh fruits and vegetables to 70 elementary school locations. Annual FFVP funding is sought for all elementary schools.

C-12, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the projects as follows: Bid 24-56, Fresno High School Auxiliary Gym and Site Improvements; Bid 25-11, Sunnyside High School Theater Lighting and Sound System Replacement; Bid 25-31, Mayfair Elementary School Playground Replacements; Bid 25-36 Sections B and F, Exterior Painting at Vang Pao Elementary School and Sunnyside High School; Bid 25-41, Fresno High School New Cafeteria; Bid 25-43, Fresno Unified Service Center Bus Wash Facility; Bid 26-08, Fresno High School Pool Improvements

C-13, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended, Notices of Completion for projects which have been completed according to plans and specifications. The projects are as follows: Bid 24-56, Fresno High School Auxiliary Gym, and Site Improvements; Bid 25-11, Sunnyside High School Theater Lighting and Sound System Replacement; Bid 25-31, Mayfair Elementary School Playground Replacements; Bid 25-36 Sections B and F, Exterior Painting at Vang Pao Elementary; School and Sunnyside High School.

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

Member Jonasson Rosas reported that the Board is close to being where they should with the questions submitted in advance of the meeting; however, the technical questions continue to hinder the overall score.

Member Jonasson Rosas also reported that questions asked during the meeting received a score of 80%. The score could have been higher if not for the time-bound questions that focused on future actions (“what are we going to do going forward”) rather than seeking to understand the reasons for the Board’s current position.

Member Jonasson Rosas reported a total score of 83%.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 10:26 p.m.