



BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
2309 TULARE STREET
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR
FRESNO, CA 93721
fresnounified.org/board

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

August 12, 2026

Fresno, California

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 August 12, 2026, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Levine, and Wittrup. Superintendent Her was also present.

Board President Islas CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ambra O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, the Board was in receipt of agenda item A1, Receive the Fresno Unified School District Fourth Quarterly Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2025/26.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:32 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded, by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Leonardo Carenas, Case No. WC23-0329-9131, 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 Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Hortencia Correa De Garcia, Case No. WC24-0508-11603, 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 Strategic Plan and the 2026/27 Annual Plan

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

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

Member Davis asked when training will begin for those who have volunteered to be in classrooms.

Member Jonasson Rosas requested clarity as to the purpose for the addition of the pillars when there are goals and guardrails in place, asked if there is a need for a crosswalk to connect the pillars, and questioned the use of the same color coding for different areas.

Member Cazares requested clarity about the Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA), addressed that sites have identified goals and money allocated to each goal, but Cazares noted that the goals listed in the individual SPSAs are not the goals adopted by the district. Member Cazares asked if there will be a point when the SPSA goals will mirror the district goals.

Member Wittrup asked how the district will ensure that students with disabilities are brought alongside the main core of students. Member Wittrup noted there are Special Day Class (SDC) Autism classrooms with no teacher, and this is something that historically happens. Member Wittrup addressed the summer pilot program which the district allocated resources to but that did not have good attendance and asked how the district will ensure that when a pilot program is provided students that need the instruction will be in attendance.

Member Wittrup asked what the district has learned and how things will be different than they have been for the past 37 years in special education within Fresno Unified School District.

Member Wittrup commented on wanting to hear about Human Resources involvement and something new happening, how recruitment of fully certificated special education teachers will happen. Member Wittrup noted that school begins on Monday and there are two classes at Starr Elementary School without teachers.

Member Thomas referenced a call received from a parent looking for information on the district's autism programs and not being able to find it on the district website; Member Thomas requested there be a tab provided on the Strategic Plan site to make information easier to find and more accessible to parents.

Member Thomas asked what processes are in place to adjust when data indicates an initiative is not producing the expected outcomes.

Member Thomas asked how the pillar for People Excellence supports student outcomes, and what changes should employees expect to see.

Member Thomas asked Superintendent Her what information from students, families, staff, and the community most influenced the Superintendent during the creation of the Strategic and Annual Plans.

Member Thomas noted that the staff guardrail is bold and asked how the district will ensure fairness in supervision, evaluation, and staffing decisions.

Clerk Levine asked if there is a plan to create a one-page document of how to navigate the information for parents and what the plan is to consistently and proactively engage students during the implementation of this work.

Clerk Levine asked what Superintendent Her considers to be the biggest risks or threats to this work not being successful.

President Islas commented that in terms of OBEYA, there is a lot to dig into and asked if time could be set aside as a Board in order to learn more and dig into it more substantially.

President Islas suggested staff specifically call out when engaging students as they are the most important stakeholders, and President Islas wants to encourage staff to continue to put them on the map.

President Islas asked what implementation looks like, how will the district know what is accomplished, what may need to be added, and if every component have a project management piece.

Member Wittrup commented that we are Fresno Unified and we have to do this right, which will require innovation and thinking differently. Member Wittrup encouraged staff to add their compassion, heart, intellect, and creativity to make this work soar.

For the record, Superintendent Her and members of the Executive Cabinet were available to provide clarity.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

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

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C18 that was pulled for a trustee 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.

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 June 17, 2026.

C-2, ADOPT Resolution No. 27-01, Emergency Water Intrusion Mitigation at Tehipite Middle School

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 27-01.

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 regular meeting held June 17, 2026.

C-5, APPROVE Proposed Revisions to the 2026/27 Board Monitoring Calendar

APPROVED as recommended, revisions to the 2026/27 Board Monitoring Calendar.

C-6, APPROVE the 2026/27 Spring Release Consolidated Application to the California Department of Education

APPROVED as recommended, a budget summary for the Consolidated Application (Con App). The Con App is a tool used by the California Department of Education (CDE) to distribute funds from federal programs to school districts across California.

C-7, APPROVE Annual Agreements for Fiscal Year 2026/27

APPROVED as recommended, the matrix detailing agreements to provide services to Fresno Unified School District. Agreements will commence after Board approval and will end no later than June 30, 2027.

C-8, APPROVE Agreement for External Audit Services

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement for external audit services. After careful consideration, the Audit Committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Education at their June 04, 2026, meeting that Crowe LLP be awarded a three-year plus two one-year renewal agreement for external auditing services.

C-9, APPROVE Agreements for Legal Services for Fiscal Year 2026/27

APPROVED as recommended, a list of legal firms recommended for approval to provide legal services to Fresno Unified School District during the 2026/27 fiscal year. The list includes the firm name, location, and attorney rates.

C-10, APPROVE Certificated Retiree Contract for Elementary Music

APPROVED as recommended, information about a retiree contract to help fill a vacancy in elementary music. The retiree will provide classroom music instruction according to areas of expertise. Arts Education currently has 1.5 FTE vacancies in elementary music. This retiree will help fill that void. The contract will cover music sections at Figarden.

C-11, APPROVE Retiree Contracts for the 2026/27 School Year

APPROVED as recommended, retiree contracts recommended for approval to provide services to the Fresno Unified School District during the 2026/27 school year. The list includes the retiree's name, the location of the departments they will be working at, and the not-to-exceed amount.

C-12, APPROVE State Center Adult Education Consortium Alternate Representative

APPROVED as recommended, a recommendation to appoint Thoua Lee as the Fresno Unified School District alternate representative on the State Center Adult Education Consortium Executive Board. Mrs. Lee serves as one of three vice principals at Fresno Adult School. Assembly Bill 104 established the Adult Education Block Grant, and Fresno Unified is a member of the State Center Adult Education Consortium. All consortium members must be designated by the respective member governing boards. Fresno Adult School's principal, Rodney Branch, serves as the representative to the consortium. In the unlikely event of his absence, Mrs. Lee would serve as his alternate.

C-13, APPROVE Award of Request for Proposal No. 26-46, Portrait of a Learner Digital Platform

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 26-46, Portrait of a learner. The RFP was issued to identify a solution that can support coherent learning and evidence-based alignment with deeper learning, authentic performance, and student reflection with cycles of feedback and revision, cultivating Portrait of a Learner future-ready competencies. The term is a one-year period beginning August 13, 2026, with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods beginning June 30, 2027.

C-14, APPROVE Award of Request for Qualifications 27-01, High Dosage Literacy Tutoring Services

APPROVED as recommended, information on Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 27-01, to qualify a pool of vendors to deliver programs during instructional day and/or outside of school time that focus on literacy. Success will be measured by student achievement on statewide and district assessments, including Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), i-Ready, and the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), cross-referenced with attendance, participation, and progress monitoring data provided by the vendor. The qualification term is five (5) years and will begin August 13, 2026.

C-15, RATIFY Agreement with CORE Districts

RATIFIED as recommended, an agreement with CORE Districts. This agreement provides access to data monitoring through the CORE on-track dashboard, which provides outcome data on ninth-grade students, including offtrack lane, attendance, relationships, and grades. The Change package includes testable changes for schools in adult teaming, the eighth-to-ninth-grade transition, relationships, and equitable grading, along with tools and training in an improvement methodology (improvement science).

C-16, RATIFY Memorandum of Understanding between Fresno Unified School District and the School of Unlimited Learning

RATIFIED as recommended, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fresno Unified School District and the School of Unlimited Learning. The MOU details the relationship between the district, the charter corporate entity, and the charter school regarding operations, oversight, and monitoring. The Fresno Unified School District Board of Education approved the School of Unlimited Learning's renewal petition for a term of three years beginning July 01, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

C-17, RATIFY Purchase Orders Issued April 01, 2026, through April 30, 2026 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended information on purchase orders issued April 01, 2026, through April 30, 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 with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.

C-18, RATIFY Purchase Orders Issued April 01, 2026, through April 30, 2026 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended information on purchase orders issued April 01, 2026, through April 30, 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 with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.

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

Agenda item C-18 on tonight's Consent Agenda includes purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and the California Teaching Fellows Foundations, the CSU Fresno Foundation, California State University, Fresno, California State University, Sacramento, the CSUF/Association, the CSUF Athletic Corp. 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 Thomas, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board ratified purchase orders issued April 01, 2026, through April 30, 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. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Levine.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received six (6) public requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Allen Kiouses commented on equity and how essential the classified employees are to the safety, clean learning environment, and daily operations for students. Kiouses urged the Board to prioritize the employee guardrail to ensure one job, one income is enough.
2. James Kerbs shared that 60% of SEIU members in the district live below a living wage and asked the Board to make SEIU members a priority in the pillars and guardrails.
3. Deshuna Ricks spoke of budget cuts and urged the Board to look at other ways to reduce the budget.

At this time, Board President Islas offered a point of clarification and commented that the budget for 2026/27 was adopted in June 2026, and other than those SEIU members that retired there were no planned layoffs for any additional SEIU members.

David Chavez was available to provide clarity.

4. Riley Talford spoke as President of SEIU, Local 521 and asked the Board to take definitive action to address pay inequity.
5. Steven Fabela shared policy concerns on behalf of bus drivers.
6. Steve Hulsey shared information on an incident involving his daughter at Gaston Middle School and asked how his daughter will feel safe on campus. Hulsey asked the Board to read the document provided (Appendix A) and to please contact Hulsey.

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

Member Wittrup asked if the Board could create a Board Policy to address when a student death occurs. Member Wittrup commented that this would be a good practice for the Board and it would be good to have policy in place for support. Additionally, Member Wittrup commented that anytime a child dies, whether as a result of something that we did or a tragic incident that occurred on a campus, the community and Board would want to know what happened and if there is anything the district could do in the future to be more protective, whether it is changing practices, personnel training, or how investigations are conducted,

President Isas comments centered on concerns heard from labor partners and acknowledged the challenging economy and that some employees are at the bottom of the salary schedule and should not be forced to take an additional full-time job to make ends meet, with the rising cost of health coverage as well.

President Islas wanted to assure the labor partners that she sees employees as assets and the Board is exploring all options to sustain positions, increase pay, and lower healthcare costs because the Board does care about district employees and does want employees to feel valued and be able to work with dignity.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:34 p.m.