Fresno Unified School District
FUTURE READY STARTS HERE

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Genoveva Islas, President
Andy Levine, Clerk
Claudia Cazares
Valerie F. Davis
Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas
Keshia Thomas
Susan Wittrup

SUPERINTENDENT
Mao Misty Her

**September 09, 2026, Board Meeting**
**Trustee Agenda Item Questions & Answers**

**Item C-7**

**Q: Are there any "conflicts of interest" for district leadership that should be disclosed?**
A: The District has no knowledge of existing conflicts of interest related to this matter. Attorneys are required to disclose to the district any existing conflicts.

**Item C-8**

**Q: How long has the district had a coaching contract for Portrait of a Learner, and how many more years should board members expect this to be necessary? At what point will the district have staff who are able to provide this coaching and deeper learning?**
A: This is the first year this vendor has provided adult professional learning and instructional coaching on project-based learning for teachers provided by this vendor. The services are an integral part of the Life Skills goal. It is anticipated that teachers will be able to utilize the trainer of trainer model in three years.

**Item C-10**

**Q: What is the purpose of a "continuing" on-loan contract, and how do students benefit?**
A: The district receives funding from the SCCD to provide support to the State Center Adult Education Consortium with the goal of strengthening service delivery for our Fresno Adult School students. There is no cost to the district, as it is reimbursed.

**Questions regarding non-agendized topics:**

**Q: We have a Board-adopted guardrail requiring community engagement around major decisions. This affected elementary families districtwide, yet there was no mass communication to families and the district largely relied on principals to deliver the message. Who determined that this did not require a broader engagement and communications plan, and what criteria did they use?**

A: The district facilitated a wide array of engagement opportunities during the budget process, beginning in the fall including:

- Site-based parent engagement LCAP hours
- Climate and Culture Survey
- Parent Group workshops (e.g. PAC, DELAC, CAC)
- Districtwide LCAP Community Engagement Night
- LCAP Family Focus Groups
- Student Advisory Board (SAB)
- School Site Council Meetings
- Project ACCESS Roundtable
- Board Meeting Budget presentations

**Q: What guidance did principals receive about how and when to communicate the change to families? Was there a common message, timeline, FAQ, or communications plan, or was each site expected to handle it independently?**

A: Initial discussions with site leaders began in the late fall. Upon actual notification in January 2026, site leaders had autonomy regarding the mechanisms utilized to communicate to families.

**Q: When did principals first learn that centralized funding would no longer be available, and was that early enough for them to meaningfully plan with teachers, School Site Councils, and families?**

A: Official notification to site leaders occurred in January, to provide time for sites to make necessary budget shifts in their site plans.

**Q: How does administration distinguish between routine budget implementation and a "major decision" requiring broader community engagement?**

A: The LCAP community engagement process, as listed above, is utilized for budget. Other major decisions requiring broader community engagement outside of the general budget planning process utilize other engagement processes, including but not limited to surveys, town halls or other methods of gathering feedback.

**Q: What equity analysis was conducted before shifting responsibility from the central office to individual schools, PTAs, fundraising, or site budgets?**

A: Specific equity analysis was not completed; However, over several years unrestricted site funding has been increased to make additional funding available. Unrestricted site funds increased from $20.975 million in 2016/17 to $28.944 million in 2025/26.

**Q: How was this decision reconciled with the district's stated commitment to equitable access, particularly when some schools have significantly greater fundraising capacity than others?**

A: Schools that may have less fundraising capacity are provided greater funding and restricted supplemental funds due to their high need.

**Q: When concerns from families and educators began surfacing, what internal process was used to determine whether the district should reconsider the decision?**

A: After reviewing concerns from families, students and staff, District Leadership met to review alternative funding sources and potential options.

**Q: What role did the volume of community response play in reversing or modifying the decision?**

A: In response to direct feedback to the Superintendent's office, the decision was made to offer these TK-6 enrichment opportunities for the 2026-27 school year only and dispel the misinformation that all field trips had been cancelled districtwide. Additionally, we plan to establish a board approved Community Budget Coalition to include staff, parents and community members.

**Q: What lessons has administration identified from this process about communicating significant districtwide changes to families before implementation?**

A: This process has highlighted the importance of coordinated communication for sites and families. We will continue to strengthen our processes with the needs of students, families and sites in mind.

**Q: Going forward, what specific process will ensure that decisions of this scale include early Board notification, a clear determination regarding the guardrails, meaningful community engagement, and direct districtwide communication to affected families?**

A: The district will continue to evaluate and strengthen processes in these areas, ensuring timely board notification.

**Q: Is there a conflict of interest for 8 out of 9 Foundation Board members to be receiving money/contracts from either the Foundation or the District?**

**Q: Why are there no FUSD board members on the Foundation board?**

**Q: Will the Foundation, under Bob Nelson's leadership as interim CEO, now act as a slush fund for when the district needs to cover expenses?**

A: Questions above related to Foundation leadership and governance should be directed to the Foundation Board.

**Q: Please provide a link or pdf of the MOU between FUSD and the Foundation.**

A: The District and Foundation are in the process of finalizing an MOU which will be brought to the Fresno Unified Board at a future meeting in the fall.

Added: 09/09/26

Fresno Unified School District
FUTURE READY STARTS HERE

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Genoveva Islas, President
Andy Levine, Clerk
Claudia Cazares
Valerie F. Davis
Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas
Keshia Thomas
Susan Wittrup

SUPERINTENDENT
Mao Misty Her

**September 09, 2026, Board Meeting**
**Trustee Agenda Item Questions & Answers**
**Addendum**

**Q**: **How much has Fresno Unified spent on the entire Career Nexus arrangement since 2024, —not just the $211,336 before us today?**

A: Since 2024, the Board has approved two agreements between Fresno Unified and Career Nexus totaling $2,809,992.89 to lease and improve the facility at 3240 N. Millbrook Avenue. The facility houses the 56 employees of Fresno Unified's College and Career Readiness Department and supports the expansion of work-based learning opportunities for students.

Of the total authorized amount, $1,726,377.82 was designated for facility improvements necessary to prepare the space to accommodate College and Career Readiness staff and operations. The remaining $1,083,615.07 supports the lease and ongoing facility-related costs, including custodial services, maintenance, HVAC and plumbing repairs, insurance, and other facility expenses.

**Q: What exactly is Career Nexus required to deliver in return for that money? How many internships, certifications, students served, or other measurable outcomes are guaranteed?**

A: Career Nexus secures facility-related services for the 3240 N. Millbrook Avenue location, including maintenance and mechanical repairs, insurance, HVAC services, custodial services, utilities and waste because Fresno Unified does not service or maintain facilities it does not own. Career Nexus also facilitates lease payments on behalf of Fresno Unified at no additional administrative cost to the District.

In addition to these facility-related responsibilities, Career Nexus supports Fresno Unified's efforts to expand work-based learning opportunities for students. During the 2025–26 school year, Career Nexus facilitated 94 Fresno Unified students in paid internships at businesses and work locations throughout the Fresno community.

With the completion of the current improvements at 3240 N. Millbrook, the District anticipates that more than 100 student interns will be served through the IT center located within the facility during the 2026–27 school year and summer 2027.

After improvements are completed to the work-based learning center, Fresno Unified students will work alongside and intern with District IT employees, gaining hands-on work experience while repairing, re-imaging, and replacing screens on student laptops and devices.

The contract with Career Nexus does not establish a guaranteed number of internships, certifications, or students served. Rather, the facility and partnership are intended to provide the infrastructure and support necessary for Fresno Unified to expand student access to meaningful work-based learning and other career-connected experiences.

**Q: How much of Career Nexus's own money is it contributing to this facility and these programs?**

A: Career Nexus has invested its own resources to administer the operational contract at 3240 N. Millbrook; Career Nexus has not contributed funding to the facility. The facility is occupied by Fresno Unified staff and supports the operations of the District's College and Career Readiness Department, including the development and expansion of work-based learning opportunities for students.

Career Nexus has partnered with the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance and Fresno Unified to pursue grant funding to develop and expand work-based learning opportunities.

**Q: Why is Fresno Unified paying the rent, utilities, maintenance, security, insurance, technology, and major tenant improvements for a facility leased in Career Nexus's name?**

A: Career Nexus secures facility-related services for the 3240 N. Millbrook Avenue location, including maintenance and mechanical repairs, insurance, HVAC services, custodial services, utilities and waste. Career Nexus also facilitates lease payments on behalf of Fresno Unified at no additional administrative cost to the District.

Fresno Unified's College and Career Readiness Department had long outgrown its previous location located at 4120 N. First Street, where previously most of its 56 staff members were working in limited spaces. In addition to these space constraints, the 4120 N. First Street facility required substantial improvements to address ongoing roof leaks, plumbing issues, and other facility needs.

The move to 3240 N. Millbrook Avenue provided an opportunity to address these operational needs while also creating space that directly supports the District's student achievement and College and Career Readiness goals.

The District's financial investment in the facility supports two primary purposes:

1. Expand student access to work-based learning and college and career opportunities. A portion of the facility is being developed specifically to support work-based learning experiences for Fresno Unified students. This investment directly aligns with the District's College and Career Readiness Goal, including Interim Goal 2, which focuses on increasing the percentage of students completing dual enrollment, CTE, and work-based learning experiences.
2. Provide an appropriate work environment for College and Career Readiness staff.

**Q: Does Career Nexus use any of this taxpayer-funded space for its own offices or operations, and if so, does it pay a proportional share of the costs?**

A: No, Career Nexus does not occupy or utilize any space within the facility at 3240 N. Millbrook Avenue for its offices or operations.

**Q: Why did the district structure this through Career Nexus instead of leasing the property directly, and was this arrangement competitively procured or independently compared with other options?**

A: In 2024, Fresno Unified identified the need for additional space to adequately house the College and Career Readiness Department, while also identifying an opportunity to expand student access to work-based learning experiences. At that time, the District did not have the capacity to immediately pursue a direct lease or purchase of the property.

To expedite occupancy, Career Nexus entered into the lease with the property owner and agreed to facilitate lease payments at no additional cost to the District. This provided Fresno Unified access to the facility while the District worked toward a longer-term arrangement. Career Nexus was identified as a partner because of its existing work with Fresno Unified and its focus on student internships and work-based learning.

**Q: What happens to the taxpayer-funded improvements and investments if this relationship ends or the property is eventually purchased? Does FUSD recover or receive credit for the public money invested?**

A: Fresno Unified entered into this agreement with the purpose of expanding college and career opportunities for students, internships, and job shadowing. The intent was to pilot paid internships programs. Leasing this property, even with the costs with subtenant agreements was more viable while the district was able to examine purchase options. If Fresno Unified purchases the property, the facility and the improvements made to it will become District assets as part of the acquisition.