



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

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

September 23, 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 September 23, 2026, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Wittrup. Superintendent Her was also present.

President Islas participated via teleconference from the location as follows: 8327 Country Ridge Rd., Indianapolis, Indiana 46234; and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(b)(2) all action taken during the meeting was by roll call vote.

Board Clerk Levine CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 5:49 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Patrick Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Clerk Levine ADJOURNED the meeting to Closed Session at 5:50 p.m.

Board Clerk Levine RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 5:54 p.m. and for the record, there was no action to report from Closed Session.

RECOGNIZE the 2026/27 Fresno Unified School District Student Advisory Board

The Board formally welcomed the incoming Student Advisory Board and recognized those students elected by their peers to serve as Student Board Members during the 2026/27 academic year.

The 2026/27 student board members are Marijayne Maldonado, a senior at Patiño School of Entrepreneurship, Jacob Romero, a senior at Design Science Middle College High School, and alternate Finley Godfirnon, a senior at Bullard High School.

Member Cazares 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.

A. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

The Board acknowledged receipt of agenda items A1, Receive Constituent Services Office Quarterly Reporting, and A2, Receive Constituent Services Office/Government Relations Annual Report.

B. CONFERENCE AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-1, DISCUSS and ACCEPT the September 2026 Student Outcomes Monitoring Report

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-1, Discuss and Accept the September 2026 Student Outcomes Monitoring Report.

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 requested clarity as to what day McLane students visit the VA hospital as well as information about the finance program available to McLane students. Member Davis requested information about certifications earned by students.

Member Thomas asked staff how the district will pivot when African American students still underperform in many categories. Member Thomas asked at what point the district pivots when something is not working.

Member Thomas commented that data presented on i-Ready is the same and asked again at what point the district pivots. Member Thomas asked district staff to adjust goals and referenced the presentation slide titled Interim Goal LI1.

Member Thomas would like to know the specific actions the district will take, the timelines, and measurable outcomes the Board should be looking for between now and the next interim assessments.

Member Thomas asked staff to continually revisit the number of students that qualify for enrollment in CCR, and if the numbers include the TK-14 pathway.

Member Cazares encouraged staff to be careful with vocabulary used when discussing meeting targets; the district does not hope to see better results, rather the district proposes intentional changes to meet set targets.

Member Cazares shared a concern with the information that one out of five teachers do not plan to implement the tools presented as best practices by the Superintendent, as well as a concern that only 78% of sites are conducting data chats. Member Cazares asked how the district plans to track that data, what are the district's plans to encourage teachers and sites to do so, and how these fit into the guardrail of effective staff.

Member Cazares asked that district staff reach out to leadership groups within affinity groups to discuss reasons for lack of participation and ways the district could help.

Member Cazares commented that the master class schedule is a big barrier to the work of creating multiple pathways for students to experience programs such as CTE, sports, and dual enrollment; and that as adults, often times work is approached with the mentality of it has always been done this way, which can limit a student's ability to choose the pathway in which they would like to participate. Member Cazares asked staff when planning the master class schedule to be aware of these programs for students.

Member Cazares asked what the district is missing when a student cannot see themselves catching up and opts to leave Fresno Unified, what can the district do to get a student on track so they do not feel they need to leave Fresno Unified for a charter or online school, how can the district change the trajectory.

Member Cazares encouraged Superintendent Her to investigate ways the district can with intention involve parents when helping students to get on track for graduation.

Member Wittrup spoke about the literacy goal and asked why the district is not seeing the targeted results. Member Wittrup shared that the top three reasons provided when asking about interventions and unmet goals are as follows: schools have autonomy, needs are not the same across the district, and we plan to make changes.

Member Wittrup asked whether the district values autonomy over results, and whether the district assesses the interventions used at schools; commenting that evidence-based interventions provide results.

Member Wittrup shared an example of a school site that only offered Tier Two Interventions two days a week, and behavioral counselors five days a week, but the behavior counselors functioned as babysitters for students that acted up at school; and commented this is not an effective use of resources.

Member Wittrup asked staff if they knew of any intervention offered only two days a week that would provide the district with the expected targeted results, and at what point the district would crack down on these types of situations and vet interventions.

Member Wittrup commented that the Board expects results from distributed resources, expects students to be able to read, and cannot allow schools to keep doing whatever they want.

Member Wittrup asked when the Board can expect to see evidence-based interventions and requested staff to create a menu of evidence-based interventions from which a school could choose.

Member Wittrup asked how the district will use Individualized Education Program Transition Plans to ensure students with disabilities have early access to pathways and keep parents informed.

President Islas commented that the Literacy Intervention goal is complicated; noting that measures and interventions are not uniform across grade-levels while covering a broad range of grades. President Islas commented that the district needs to recognize that this is a robust goal and it requires robust interventions; noting that current interventions focus solely on curriculum and instruction, but tonight the Board heard about the varying needs of the student population that are not limited to curriculum and instruction.

President Islas referenced coaching received to frame interventions in such a way that the Board addresses the deficits they would like the district to tackle. President Islas pointed out that the deficits are varied, and the district needs to expand interventions to build them out and intentionally include parents, think creatively to address the unique needs in Fresno Unified.

President Islas asked if there is more localized data the district can capture for itself and work to build interventions more broadly.

President Islas commented on not wanting to undercut progress the district has made; noting the district is not achieving everything it would like to achieve, but progress is still being made. President Islas shared a reflection that sometimes while walking down a path people only see how much further there is to go rather than appreciating how far they have come. President Islas suggested that to avoid discouragement the district should recognize achievements.

President Islas asked how the district can further the impact of programs and whether the district promotes programs in a way that every parent understands, addressing challenges around access and transportation. President Islas asked how the district can reshape resources to help those students accepted into programs in which students do not have the finances to take part.

Student Member Romero asked whether the expansion of the College and Career Readiness definition still creates an accurate measurement of real-world preparation, noted specifically, work-based learning and students with disabilities, commented that you do not just want to increase the preparation on paper but to make sure students are prepared and participating in work-based learning.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked if the district sees certain grades reaching goals at a higher rate than others and if so, is the district differentiating. How does the district monitor the deployment of interventions? Asked how the district leverages community partners to meet College and Career Readiness goals, and has the district looked at contracting and procurement for the addition of requirements.

Member Thomas asked what counselors are doing to promote and recruit students from middle to high school.

President Islas requested more information about interim goal one and stretch growth and specifically asked at what point students fell behind, where students consistently advanced not meeting goals, is there a visible trend. President Islas commented this information is important because it leads to specificity in intervention.

Clerk Levine commented that it would be helpful to see subgroups of disproportionate students first when looking at data for the first interim goal and equitable access guardrail. Clerk Levine asked now that the district has exceeded the target set for CCR whether a new target will be set.

For the record, Superintendent Her, Principal Brian Wulf, Jeremy Ward, Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Marie Williams, Ed.D., and Abraham Olivares were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board accepted the September 2026 Student Outcomes Monitoring Report., by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Maldonado and Romero; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

B-2, HOLD a Public Hearing and ADOPT Resolution No. 27-08, Certifying Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on agenda item B-2, Hold a Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution No. 27-08, Certifying Sufficiency of Instructional Materials.

Clerk Levine opened the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

Clerk Levine closed the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

For the record, Marie Williams, Ed.D. was available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board Adopt Resolution No. 27-08, Certifying Sufficiency of Instructional Materials by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Maldonado and Romero; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas.

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 Thomas, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda items C9 and C10 that were pulled for a trustee recusal, by a roll call vote of 7-0-0-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Maldonado and Romero; 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 September 09, 2026.

C-2, APPROVE Personnel List

APPROVED as recommended, the personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.

C-3, APPROVE Meeting Minutes

APPROVED as recommended, draft minutes of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education regular meeting held September 09, 2026.

C-4, APPROVE Annual Request to Hire Non-Credentialed Consultants for the 2026/27 School Year

APPROVED as recommended, a request to hire non-credentialed consultants who possess unique skills from business, performing arts and postsecondary institutions to provide instruction to students for the 2026/27 school year. This is an annual request to remain compliant with the California Statewide Assignment Accountability System Audit, per California Ed Code 58803.

C-5, APPROVE Credentialed Teachers to Coach One Period of Competitive Sport for Physical Education Credit during the 2026/27 School Year per California Education Code 44258.7(b)

APPROVED as recommended, a request for credentialed teachers to coach one period of competitive sport for physical education credit. Pursuant to California Education Code 44258.7(b), teachers who hold a Single Subject teaching credential in a subject or subjects other than physical education may be authorized to coach one period per day in a competitive sport for which students receive physical education credit. The teacher must be a full-time employee of the school district and has completed a minimum of 20 hours of first aid instruction appropriate for the specific sport.

C-6, APPROVE Proposed Revisions to Job Descriptions

APPROVED as recommended, revisions to seven job descriptions as follows: of Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Labor Relations; Deputy Executive, Human Resources/Labor Relations; Director, Communications; Director, Human Resources/Labor Relations; Manager III, Personnel Compliance, Audits, and Records, Human Resources/Labor Relations; Manager III, Workplace Investigations, Human Resources/Labor Relations; and Manager I, Human Resources/Labor Relations.

C-7, APPROVE Renewal Agreement with Delta Dental of California

APPROVED as recommended, a renewal agreement with Delta Dental of California. Delta Dental of California currently provides dental care services for the district's eligible active employees, retirees, and their respective dependents.

C-8, RATIFY Agreement with the Ann Kennedy Group, Inc.

RATIFIED as recommended, a service agreement with the Ann Kennedy Group, Inc. (AKG). The Ann Kennedy Group, Inc. is currently engaged to provide financial management and planning support services (reconciliation and data integrity) that identifies workflow process gaps and confirms/develops the account code structure.

C-9, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the projects as follows: Bid 24-35, Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization; Bid 26-12, Early Learning Portable Building Conversion and Site Improvement at 1001 S. Chestnut Ave. Rebid; Bid 26-27, Viking Elementary School Administration Building Health Suite Modernization; Bid 26-28, Wawona Middle School Administration Building Health Suite Modernization; and Bid 26-29, Baird Middle School Administration Building Health Suite Modernization.

For the record, Member Jonasson Rosas read the statement as follows:

Agenda Item C-9 on tonight's Consent Agenda includes ratification of change orders, including Bid 24-35 for the Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization.

My residence is within 500 feet of the campus; however, ratifying these change orders will have no measurable fiscal impact on my property. The impact is also no different from that on most properties within my trustee area that fall within the school's attendance boundaries.

Nonetheless, I am abstaining from the vote on ratifying these change orders pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270 to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board ratified change orders, by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Maldonado and Romero; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSTENTION: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

C-10, RATIFY the Filing of Notices of Completion

RATIFIED as recommended information on Notices of Completion for the Projects as follows: Bid 24-35, Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization.

For the record, Board Member Jonasson Rosas read the statement as follows:

Agenda Item C-10 on tonight's Consent Agenda includes the filing of notices of completion for Bid 24-35 for the Roosevelt High School Administration Building, Library, West Hall, and Theater Modernization.

My residence is within 500 feet of the campus; however, ratifying this notice of completion will have no measurable fiscal impact on my property. The impact is also no different from that on most properties within my trustee area that fall within the school's attendance boundaries.

Nonetheless, I am abstaining from the vote on this notice of completion pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270 to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board ratified notices of completion, by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Maldonado and Romero; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Thomas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSTENTION: Board Member Jonasson Rosas.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received four (4) public requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Emily Flores Gutierrez, a student at Wilson Elementary, thanked the district for suspending the use of products from a list of pesticides.
2. Lily Magaña asked the district to notify families when pesticides are scheduled for use.

3. Ada Espinosa thanked those that spoke about the use of pesticides and thanked the district for listening and suspending the use of 46 products. Espinosa requested the district to notify families of when and where pesticide use will take place.
4. Cristina Gutierrez thanked the district for suspension of 46 pesticide products but commented that there are still five remaining products on the list which cause skin and eye irritation. Gutierrez commented that the district is supposed to clearly post when pesticides are used, what pesticides are used, and where pesticides are used, noting that this does not happen.

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

Member Jonasson Rosas reported that the Board did not do well because rather than asking questions the Board shared opinions. Member Jonasson Rosas noted that the Board is coached to focus on the goals and the monitoring report commenting that the Board was off-track.

Member Jonasson Rosas commented the Board has opportunities to do better and to share feedback with staff, and the Board needs to ask the right questions.

Member Wittrup reflected on Board colleague conversations during the presentation and shared the thought that Trustees did well tonight; with trustees engaged and asking the tough questions, and sharing opinions based on their experience. Member Wittrup shared that it is helpful as a trustee to hear the conversations.

Member Cazares commented on not seeing the coaches asking the Board not to share opinions but rather the coaches sharing with the Board what the best practices are to focus on student outcomes focused governance.

Member Cazares referred to a student focused outcomes governance training that Members Cazares and Jonasson Rosas provided and shared that during the training Member Cazares had the thought that the Board may need to receive a refresher course that may help refocus the Board; commenting that opinions do matter, but not at the Board meeting; at the Board meeting what matters is what the Board targeted and outcomes.

Member Cazares commented that if the Board decided to move toward student focused outcomes governance, then Board members need to be intentional with the questions asked. Member Cazares recognized that this is challenging work and the Board needs to get on track and focus on the goals and outcomes to be sure the district and superintendent get there.

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.

Board Clerk Levine ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 8:22 p.m.

Board Clerk Levine RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 8:46 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Member Cazares reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Cazares, seconded, by Board Clerk Levine, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Blas Rullan, Claim No. WC22-0103-6396, by a roll call vote of 6-0-1-0 as follows: AYES: Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSTENTION: Board Member Thomas

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded, by Board Member Cazares, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Workers' Compensation Settlement for Jack Noonkester, Case No. WC24-0709-11938, 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 President Islas, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Peter Fortuna, Claim No. GL26-0225-17120 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.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board Clerk Levine ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:47 p.m.