Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Open Session Board Meeting - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

5:30 PM Ramblewood School Multipurpose Room 1351 Lightland Rd, San Jose, CA 95121

1.01 Roll Call

Hong Ha Hoang - Board President
Steven Sanchez - Board Vice President
Rudy Rodriguez - Board Clerk
Marc Cooper - Board Member
George Sanchez - Board Member

2. CLOSED SESSION

2.01 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54947)

2.02 Public Employment/Public Employee Appointment (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957)

2.03 Personnel Addendum

2.04 Negotiations

3. COMMUNITY MEETING AT RAMBLEWOOD - Multipurpose Room - 1351 LIGHTLAND ROAD, San Jose 95121

3.01 The Board of Education will meet with the community at Ramblewood Elementary - NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

4. GENERAL MATTERS - BOARD MEETING

Open Session Will Reconvene at the District Service Center Board Room - 645 Wool Creek Drive, CA 95112 - 7:30 PM for the Remainder of the Agenda

4.01 Land Acknowledgement and Mission Statement

Vice President S. Sanchez reads the Land Acknowledgement. President H. Hoang reads the District Mission Statement.

4.02 Flag Salute

Jeanne Meadows Elementary School Color Guard leads the flag salute

4.03 Approve/Disapprove Additions to the Agenda

None

4.04 Approve/Disapprove Order of the Agenda

None

4.05 Report Action Taken in Closed Session

The Superintendent reports the unanimous approval of the August 25, 2026 & September 8, 2026 Closed Session minutes

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public may address the Board on any issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board or agenda items. Members of the public may also address the Board on Consent Items before the Board's consideration of the items. In accordance with Board Bylaw 9323, individual remarks will be limited to three (3) minutes each, unless otherwise stipulated. The Board President may increase or decrease the time allowed for public comment, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. No action can be taken on any agenda items at this time. Questions may be referred to the administration or put on a future agenda.

1 Public Comment

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01 Public Hearing regarding School Bond Waiver Request

Introduction by Jason *Vann, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services*

Presented by Isom Advisors

7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

7.01 Permanent Status for Certificated Staff - 2026-27 School Year

Presented by Dr. George Kleidon, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

7.02 2025-2026 Local Assessment Results Presentation

Introduction by Dr. Limary Trujillo, Presented by Dr. Mariana Alvarez, Director of Curriculum Instruction and Innovation and Taylor Nguyen, Coordinator of State Federal

7.03 FMSD Proposition 28 Annual Report

Presented by Dr. Limary Trujillo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

7.04 Open Letter From The Board of Trustees To The Entire Franklin-McKinley School District Community Reaffirming Its Commitment To Diversity And Freedom And Non-Discrimination And Rebuking Board Member Marc Cooper's Conduct.

Trustee Rudy Rodriguez, Requests to include the FMEA Letter into the Record and attached to the minutes. Amendment to the minutes (Item 7.04) approved by the Board on October 13, 2026 to include: Trustee R. Rodriguez comment to Mark Cooper: " I am publicly requesting that you immediately resign from the FMSD Board so that we may move forward appropriately to replace you with a qualified replacement."

Motioned to approve by R. Rodriguez. Seconded by S. Sanchez
The motion carries with the following 4-1-0
Board Vote:

Ayes: Hong Ha Hoang, Steven Sanchez, Rudy Rodriguez, George Sanchez
Nayes: Marc Cooper
Abstentions:
Absent:

8. CONSENT ITEMS (Under $25,000)

The following motion applies to all Consent Items (Under $25,000) 8.01 through 8.03.

Motioned to approve by S. Sanchez. Seconded by G. Sanchez
The motion carries with the following 5-0-0

Board Vote:
Ayes: Hong Ha Hoang, Steven Sanchez, Rudy Rodriguez, Marc Cooper, George Sanchez
Nayes:
Abstentions:
Absent:

8.01 Memorandum of Understanding with Special Olympics Northern California, Inc. and Franklin-McKinley School District for the 2026-2027 School Year

8.02 Approval of the 2025-2026 LCAP Federal Addendum

8.03 Memorandum of Understanding with Jostens for Lairon College Preparatory

9. CONSENT ITEMS (Over $25,000)

The following motion applies to all Consent Items (Under $25,000) 9.01 through 9.05.

Motioned to approve by G. Sanchez. Seconded by R. Rodriguez
The motion carries with the following 5-0-0

Board Vote:
Ayes: Hong Ha Hoang, Steven Sanchez, Rudy Rodriguez, Marc Cooper, George Sanchez
Nayes:
Abstentions:
Absent:

9.01 Authorization to Establish a 2026-2027 Blanket Purchase Order with Amazon for Special Education Sensory Items

9.02 Amendment to the 2026-2027 Renewal of Licenses with Imagine Learning to purchase additional Sonday Essentials licenses, K-3 District-Wide

9.03 2026-2027 Ratification Contract with Second Start/Pine Hill Non-Public School (NPS)

9.04 Contract Agreement with San Jose Jazz Progressions and the Franklin-McKinley School District

9.05 Ratification of the Contract with Catholic Charities for CORAL Services for the 2026-2027 School Year

10. ACTION ITEMS

10.01 September 8, 2026, Open Session Minutes

Motioned to approve by R. Rodriguez. Seconded by S. Sanchez
The motion carries with the following 5-0-0

Board Vote:
Ayes: Hong Ha Hoang, Steven Sanchez, Rudy Rodriguez, Marc Cooper, George Sanchez
Nayes:
Abstentions:
Absent:

10.02 Personnel Report

Motioned to approve by S. Sanchez Seconded by R. Rodriguez
The motion carries with the following 5-0-0

Board Vote:
Ayes: Hong Ha Hoang, Steven Sanchez, Rudy Rodriguez, Marc Cooper, George Sanchez
Nayes:
Abstentions:
Absent:

10.03 Resolution 2026-43 - Request for a Waiver of Bonding Capacity Limitation

Motioned to approve by R. Rodriguez Seconded by G. Sanchez
The motion carries with the following 5-0-0

Board Vote:
Ayes: Hong Ha Hoang, Steven Sanchez, Rudy Rodriguez, Marc Cooper, George Sanchez
Nayes:
Abstentions:
Absent:

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent thanks:
Everyone involved in putting together the Parent University Event:

Dr. Trujillo, Dr. Alvarez, Taylor Nguyen, Dr. Kleidon and his team, the Families that made it to the event, the YMCA Keno Speaker, and looks forward to bringing this event back next year

The Superintendent reports attending Healthier Kids Foundation Gala

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Clerk R. Rodriguez reports attending The Parent University event at Shirakawa and the VASC (Vietnamese American Center) event

Vice President S. Sanchez reports attending, Rocketship Mosaic Multicultural Festival, Santa Clara School Board Members Association reception, Asian pacific Islander School Board Association, College Career Fair put on by Eastside School District, Mid Autum Festival at The VASC Center, Parent University at Shirakawa, Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, Andrew Hill 35th Moon Festival at Andrew Hill

Trustee M. Cooper reports attending Rocketship Mosaic Multicultural Event, VASC event, Parent University at Shirakawa, Andrew Hill for the 35th Year Moon Festival

Trustee G. Sanchez reports attending the Moon Festival at Andrew Hill High, the Parent University at Shirakawa, the September 16th celebration at Hellyer School, evaluated the Beacon program at Wilcox High School, attended the reception for Vernon Billy, University College event at Independence High School, participating in Evaluating 2 schools in the Oakgrove School District for the Golden Bell Awards

President H. Hoang reports attending RocketShip Mosaic Multicultural Festival, The Vietnamese American Center open house on Alma, The Santa Clara School Board Association with CSBA CEO and Executive Directors, Elevating Student Voice-decision making event, County School Board Association Legislative Action Committee meeting, President Hoang Ha expresses: looking forward to attending the Fall Celebrations and hopes students, Families, and staff have a restful fall break

13. FUTURE BUSINESS

None

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES

14.01 October 13, 2026 @ 6:30 PM - Regular Board Meeting - District Service Center - 645 Wool Creek Drive, San Jose 95112

14.02 October 27, 2027 @ 7:30 PM - Community Meeting at Shirakawa Elementary @ 6:00 PM - Cafeteria - 665 Wool Creek Drive, San Jose 95112, General Session @ 7:30 PM - District Service Center - Boardroom - 645 Wool Creek Drive, San Jose 95112

14.03 November 10, 2026 @ 6:30 PM - Regular Board Meeting - District Service Center - 645 Wool Creek Drive, San Jose 95112

15. CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn the meeting by R. Rodriguez Seconded by G. Sanchez

The motion carries with the following 5-0-0

Board Vote:

Ayes: Hong Ha Hoang, Steven Sanchez, Rudy Rodriguez, Marc Cooper, George Sanchez

Nayes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

The meeting adjourns at 9:25 pm

Juan Cruz, Superintendent

Rudy Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board

FRANKLIN-McKINLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPROVED ON
OCT 13 2026
BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 14, 2026

Franklin-McKinley School District Board of Education
Franklin-McKinley School District

RE: Request for Investigation of Board Member Comments and Conduct

Dear Members of the Franklin-McKinley School District Board of Education:

The Franklin-McKinley Education Association (**FMEA**) Executive Board is asking the Franklin-McKinley School District Board of Education to take seriously and investigate comments made by Board Member Marc Cooper during the September 8, 2026, Board meeting. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8knP5kKgeaI&t=7374s) His comments raise serious concerns regarding religious intolerance, factual accuracy, and the standards expected of individuals who serve and represent a public school district.

Religious Intolerance Has No Place in Our Schools

Mr. Cooper has repeatedly made statements that promote religious intolerance and hostility which violates FMSD's policy (written below) of protecting, nurturing, and celebrating the diversity of its community.

> *"Every student has the right to be protected from "hate-motivated" behavior. Behavior or statements that degrade an individual on the basis of race, ethnicity, culture, heritage, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical/mental attributes or* ***religious beliefs*** *or practices shall not be tolerated and may be considered "hate-motivated" speech or "hate-motivated" behavior."*

Regardless of anyone's personal faith or beliefs, public schools must be places where every student, family, and staff member is treated with dignity, respect, and equal consideration. FMSD schools should be places where all are welcome.

There are also several serious inaccuracies that FMEA feels the Board should address.

1. Terrorism Should Not Be Attributed to an Entire Religion

Terrorists should be identified by their actions and ideology—not by the religion they claim or the religion with which they may be associated.

We would not describe Eric Rudolph, the Centennial Olympic Park bomber; Buford Furrow, the Los Angeles Jewish Community Center shooter; or Richard Girnt Butler, founder of the Aryan Nations, as "cowardly radical Christians." We identify them accurately as *terrorists* because of what they did.

Individuals must be held accountable for their own words and actions without assigning collective blame to millions of innocent people simply because they share a religious identity.

2. Accurate Language Matters When Discussing September 11

The September 11 attacks were not simply a "bombing" of the World Trade Center. Referring to these events as a "bombing of the Twin Towers" is inaccurate and minimizes the nature and scope of what occurred.

On September 11, 2001, hijackers intentionally crashed commercial airplanes into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Another hijacked plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to intervene. These coordinated terrorist attacks were intended to cause mass death and destruction.

Accurate language matters—particularly when those words are spoken by someone serving on the governing board of a public school district which has a school named Captain Jason M. Dahl Elementary. For those who are unaware, Captain Jason M. Dahl was an FMSD alum and the pilot of Flight 93, which crashed into the Pennsylvania field.

3. The United States Is Not a Legally-Established Christian Nation

The Supreme Court has not recognized the United States as a legally-established Christian nation, unlike when Mr. Cooper falsely stated that "three times the Supreme Court has ruled that America is a Christian nation." Our constitutional system protects religious freedom and prohibits the government from establishing or favoring a particular religion. We are a nation founded on religious freedoms.

We were therefore deeply disappointed to see Board members accept Mr. Cooper's gift of a lapel pin depicting a cross and incorporating an American flag in this context.

To be clear, FMEA Executive Board's concern is not with the personal religious beliefs of any Board member. Rather, it is with the appearance and message created when a gift of religious symbolism is exchanged or publicly embraced in connection with statements that may reasonably be perceived as hostile or dismissive toward other religions.

<u>Concerns Regarding Charter Schools and FMSD</u>

The FMEA Executive Board is also deeply concerned by the overwhelming praise and admiration expressed by Mr. Cooper, a public school teacher, for charter schools—particularly when those schools are drawing students away from FMSD and presenting data that does not accurately reflect the full picture. SBAC scores have not been presented, nor has the percentage of FMSD students attending these schools been disclosed.

Advocating for educational options is one thing. Repeatedly praising institutions that compete directly with the district one serves, raises legitimate questions about Mr. Cooper's judgment, responsibility, and commitment to the school community.

<u>A Question the Board Should Consider</u>

Most importantly, the FMEA Executive Board would like the Board to consider the following question:

If an FMSD teacher stood before students and said, **"This is the 25th anniversary of the bombing of the Twin Towers by the cowardly, radical Muslims,"** would that statement be considered appropriate in an FMSD classroom?

If the answer is **no,** then we believe the Board should explain why a substantially similar characterization would be acceptable when made by a person addressing the broader school community during an official Board meeting—particularly when Board meetings are publicly recorded and made available online. We have Muslim students and staff in our district and it is our duty to make them feel just as safe as everyone else.

This is not about silencing someone's religious beliefs or political opinions. It is about accountability, the treatment of students and families, and the responsibility of school leaders to maintain an environment free from discrimination, religious intolerance, and hatred.

The Board Must Lead by Example

Mr. Cooper has demonstrated positions that are hostile toward and intolerant of religions other than Christianity. He has also positioned himself in opposition to FMSD schools through his strong advocacy for charter schools.

The Board has a responsibility to lead by example and protect the integrity of the school community. Students, families, staff, and constituents deserve to know that religious intolerance, discrimination, and hostility toward any group will be taken seriously and addressed—not tolerated or swept aside.

FMEA Executive Board's Request to the Board

The Franklin-McKinley Education Association Executive Board is asking the Board to act now.

Please:

- **Investigate the concerns outlined in this letter;**
- **Review the applicable district policies, standards of conduct, and expectations for Board members and district employees;**
- **Determine whether any statements or conduct violated those policies or standards;**
- **Address conduct that is inconsistent with the district's commitment to an inclusive and respectful educational environment; and**
- **Take whatever action is necessary to prevent the continued spread or normalization of hate, discrimination, and religious intolerance within the Franklin-McKinley School District.**

Statements made during an official Board meeting that are inconsistent with district policies, standards of conduct, or the district's commitment to an inclusive educational environment should not simply be dismissed or normalized.

This is an urgent plea for the Board to uphold those principles and demonstrate that hate, discrimination, and religious intolerance have no place in our public schools.

FMSD students deserve respect.

FMSD families deserve respect.

FMSD staff deserve respect.

FMSD voters deserve respect.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter, and your willingness to take these concerns seriously.

Respectfully,

Franklin-McKinley Education Association Executive Board