BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
2309 TULARE STREET
BOARD ROOM, 2nd FLOOR
FRESNO, CA 93721
fresnounified.org/board

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

October 14, 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 October 14, 2026, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Islas, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Wittrup. Superintendent Her was away attending her son's wedding, out of state, and Deputy Superintendent Drati was present and sat at the dais on behalf of Superintendent Her.

For the record, Trustee Thomas participated during Closed Session only, from the teleconference location as follows: The Omni Hotel, 2100 Costa Del Mar Road, Carlsbad, California 92009, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (b) (2) all action taken during this meeting was by roll call vote.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Paoze Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

For the record, staff pulled agenda item C13, Approve Agreements for Outdoor Education Camps from the agenda, due to unfinished agreements.

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 accepted receipt of two agenda items as follows: A1, Receive Results of Issuance and Sale of Measure H, Series B Bonds and 2026 Refunding Bonds; and A2, Receive, Proposed Revisions for Board Policies.

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

Board President Islas RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:39 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

Clerk Levine reported the following:

On a motion by Board Member Wittrup, seconded, by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, the Board took action in Closed Session on a Risk Management Settlement for John HJ Doe, Case No. GL23-0823-9499, 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 Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Minor, Claim No. GL26-0520-18640, 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 Wittrup, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Minor, Claim No. GL26-0626-18642, 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 Davis, the Board took action in Closed Session to deny Minor, Claim No. GL26-0824-18645, 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 to internally hire Paul Scott to Executive Director, Information Technology, 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, DISCUSS and ACCEPT the October 14, 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 October 14, 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 Cazares commented on social emotional learning (SEL) and inclusivity and asked how the district can help students align more with special education students on campuses and if there is an opportunity to help students support each other, noting that CASTLE may not have the option but the SEL work may be the place to add. Member Cazares asked if there is a benefit to rolling out data to school sites monthly rather than yearly.

Member Cazares noted that the district is not meeting interim guardrail one of effective staff, commenting that the Board would like staff to complete training before placement into a supervisory position; and asked what staff strategically plan to make sure the district is meeting the guardrail.

Member Wittrup asked staff to talk about the distinction between performance and conduct within the evaluation process. Member Wittrup asked if conduct is reflected in the performance evaluation and asked how the district screens for that; specifically related to staff moving forward.

Member Davis asked if definitions between the California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders and the California Standards for the Teaching Profession have discrepancies. Member Davis asked if there is anything that reflects absences and if employees are accountable, asked if the district tracks employee absences.

Member Jonasson Rosas asked what staff plan to update interims based on what the district is seeing and to make sure the district stays aggressive; are there plans to look at results and at the district's theory of action to see how things align to goals and guardrails the district is trying to achieve, are we confident these are the right interims.

Student Member Maldonado asked how the health and wellness interim guardrail and curriculum will stay up to date with current issues; specifically asking about social media.

Student Member Romero asked if the district considered involving parents in the development of the curriculum; specifically related to the health and wellness guardrail.

Clerk Levine asked staff to post to the district website for public information about the 65% of schools that met the benchmark. Clerk Levine noted that except for DeWolf all other high schools are off track and asked staff if there is a straightforward reason. Clerk Levine asked if staff are confident that the district will reach the goal of 75% by addressing more of the high schools.

Clerk Levine asked if the plan is to keep the effective staff interim goal at 50% or reassess for next year.

President Islas asked staff to share how to accelerate action to receive the desired result within the effective staff guardrail, and what forms of accountability are in place. Requested staff to provide a board communication with data on employees such as level, years of service, gender, ethnicity, residence; noted the reason for the request is the Board often hears comments about the cost for management and administrators compared to other employee groups when balancing the budget.

President Islas commented on the Health and Wellness guardrail; calling out how well implementation at elementary sites is doing; noting it is obvious the district is not doing well at the high school level; commenting that conflicts such as ableism and lack of investment in skill building and helping students embrace diversity and inclusion may be contributing factors. President Islas asked why the difference, and if there is anything staff need the Board to emphasize in terms of expectations of the Board.

Member Cazares asked staff to investigate benefits of the district using Parent Square to help with the work in social emotional learning.

For the record, David Chavez, Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara, and Rita Baharian were available to provide clarity.

On a motion by Board Clerk Levine, seconded by Board Member Cazares, the Board accepted the October 14, 2026, Student Outcomes Monitoring Report, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Maldonado and Romero; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Wittrup, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSENT: Board Member Thomas

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

For the record, the Board received zero (0) public requests to speak on the Consent Agenda. The individuals' names and summary of topic are as follows:

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item C13 which was pulled from the agenda by staff, and C19 for a trustee recusal, by a roll call vote of 5-0-0-2 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members Maldonado and Romero; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Clerk Levine, and President Islas. ABSENT: Board Members Thomas and Wittrup.

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 23, 2026.

C-2, ADOPT Resolution No. 27-02, Recognizing October 2026 as Cyber Security Awareness Month

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 27-02.

C-3, ADOPT Resolution No. 27-16, Ordering the Date of the Annual Organizational Meeting
ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution No. 27-16.

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 workshop meeting held September 16, 2026, and the regular meeting held September 23, 2026.

C-6, ADOPT Provisional Internship Permits
ADOPTED as recommended, Provisional Internship Permit recommendations to rehire or hire upon Board adoption.

C-7, ADOPT Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher Waiver Request
ADOPTED as recommended, a waiver request for Myra Stephanie Rubio to serve as a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher.

C-8, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language and Development Authorization
ADOPTED as recommended.

C-9, ADOPT Variable Term Waiver for Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development Emphasis
ADOPTED as recommended.

C-10, ADOPT Variable Term Waivers for Career Technical Education Credential Holders
ADOPTED as recommended.

C-11, APPROVE Appointments to the Audit Committee
APPROVED as recommended, the appointments of Barbara Thormann and James Stahl to the Fresno Unified School District Audit Committee.

C-12, APPROVE Budget Revision No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2026/27
APPROVED as recommended, Budget Revision No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2026/27.

~~**C-13, APPROVE Agreements for Outdoor Education Camps**~~
PULLED BY STAFF, no action or discussion by the Board on this item.

C-13, APPROVE Agreements for Four Outdoor Education Camps
APPROVED as recommended, agreements for four outdoor education camps as follows: Wonder Valley, Calvin Crest, Sierra Outdoor School, and Mission Springs Camp.

C-14, APPROVE Proposed Revisions to Job Descriptions
APPROVED as recommended, revisions for three job descriptions as follows: Manager I, Special Education Program Coordinator, Manager II, Special Education Program Specialist, and Manager III, Special Education Programs and Services.

C-15, APPROVE Proposed Revisions to the 206/27 Board Monitoring Calendar
APPROVED as recommended.

C-16, APPROVE the 2026/27 Fresno County School Trustees Association General Meetings
APPROVED as recommended.

C-17, RATIFY Agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools – Golden State Pathway Program
RATIFED as recommended, an agreement between Fresno County Superintendent of Schools on behalf of the California Department of Education and the Golden State Pathway Program and Fresno Unified. With this agreement, Fresno Unified will receive reimbursement not to exceed $667,535 for services provided to Career Technical Education students at McLane and Roosevelt High Schools.

C-18, RATIFY Purchase Orders Issued July 01, 2026, through July 31, 2026 – Primary Report
RATIFIED as recommended information on purchase orders issued July 01, 2026, through July 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-19, RATIFY Purchase Orders Issued July 01, 2026, through July 31, 2026 – Supplemental Report
RATIFIED as recommended information on purchase orders issued July 01, 2026, through July 31, 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-19 on tonight's Consent Agenda includes purchase orders between Fresno Unified School District and Bulldog Baseball Camps, Bulldog Rugby, California State University, Fresno, California State University, Fresno Foundation, and the California Teaching Fellows Foundation.
>
> 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 Davis, seconded by Board President Islas, the Board ratified purchase orders issued July 01, 2026, through July 31, 2026, Supplemental Report, by a roll call vote of 5-0-1-1 as follows: AYES: Student Board Members: Maldonado and Romero; Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Wittrup and President Islas. ABSTENTIONS: Board Member Levine. ABSENT: Board Members Thomas.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received ten (10) public requests to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name and a summary of topics are as follows:

1. Cheryl Stowers asked the Board to reaffirm that no federal immigration agent is allowed on campus without a signed judicial warrant.
2. Lourdes Cardenas was not present when called to speak but provided a written statement about concerns related to raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
3. Mariela Fernandez de Vallejo asked Fresno Unified to address in writing policy 6158 and asked the Board to consider using the same instructional procedures as during the COVID Pandemic.

For the record, Board President Islas asked Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., to share information regarding opportunities that could help with parental concerns.

A summary of Dr. Castillo's comments is as follows:

> The district has put together a one-page document which is posted on the Parent University webpage and a larger version will be posted to the district website.

This year the state is allowing for short-term independent study. Which means, if families anticipate absences between one and fifteen days they may take advantage of the independent study at their school sites. If families anticipate longer than fifteen days, they may look into the Farber School of Online Learning grades second through twelfth grade. Although the district cautions that Career Technical Education courses will not be available at Farber Online. There is also the School of Independent Study in nine through twelfth grade if students and families feel like they need longer times.

Additionally, through our Community Schools the district is working quickly to find other resources for families besides just the in-seat educational setting.

4. Jaime Rodriguez shared information about incidents involving his son that happened at his son's school.
5. Emma Flores spoke out on behalf of students, sharing that students are afraid to attend school because of immigration raids. Emma asked the Board to please focus on students, they deserve to feel safe, supported, and able to learn.
6. Brianna Bernabe Tapia shared examples of the fear immigrant families experience when they are afraid of ICE.
7. Gloria Bernabe talked about ICE and how families fear sending their children to school. Every student and family deserves free information.
8. Cristine Gutirrez spoke on behalf of parents and students asking how parents can request information they do not know exists and requested the district to please send the information to parents.

For the record, Board Clerk Levine asked Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., to confirm that information is going out to all sites and to homeschool liaisons.

A summary of Dr. Castillo's comments is as follows:

Dr. Castillo confirmed that staff will actively send out the information to families as well as follow up with home school liaisons and office staff to ensure they have the information needed to address questions.

9. Kristina McIntyre-Holmes echoed comments from parents about short-term independent study and thanked Deputy Superintendent Dr. Drati and Chief of Staff O'Connor for pushing out the information. McIntyre-Holmes reminded the Board of their duties to ensure that policies align with the safety of children, commenting that the Board should have a zero-tolerance policy for drug or alcohol types of violations on the records of district drivers; commented the Board should consider first the safety of students in negotiations and policy development.
10. Olga Valle shared concerns about the lack of easily available information about short-term independent study.

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

Before Board members shared reflections on their shared agreements, Member Jonasson Rosas provided an update on the Board's monitoring report process.

Member Jonasson Rosas provided a note to staff that not all questions should make the Question & Answer (Q&A) list as some of the questions asked were for clarification only, and asked staff to provide the number of trustees turning in questions for the Q&A list.

Member Jonasson Rosas shared that the Board scored 78% in meeting monitoring questions as everyone present took part; noting that the score was lowered by members asking questions about the future rather than past performance as well as some issues with focusing on items in the monitoring report rather than wanting to add to the monitoring report.

Below is a summary of Board member reflections on their shared agreements.

Member Cazares commented that during the goal monitoring process the Board should avoid asking yes or no questions.

Member Cazares shared that this Board stands by the parents and community noting that the last two years have been exceedingly difficult. Member Cazares directed staff to take the recommendations from parents and make the short-term independent study information widely available; and suggested publishing every day over the next weeks; noting that what the district is doing now is not enough if our own staff do not know about it.

President Islas shared reflections tied to respect and civility; noting that the immigrant community is being torn apart and hearing that immigration officials detained ten parents who have children in this district. President Islas shared that these are children experiencing harm and hurt, living in fear sheltering in place, children missing school and robbed of their future. President Islas expressed anger and hurt about what is happening to immigrant families and community; commenting these are the same people who put their lives on the line to feed us during the Pandemic, once called essential and now called criminal.

President Islas assured families that they are not alone and can arrange for short-term independent study and if needed for grades nine through twelve longer-term independent study. President Islas noted that this Board adopted a policy of non-cooperation with ICE and the Board's goal is education not incarceration. President Islas expressed hope that all staff who are listening understand the commitment and policy the Board adopted.

President Islas assured students that their civil rights do not end at the school door, and if they choose to walk out, please be safe. President Islas asked families to organize their papers, and the district is here to help. President Islas commented it is disturbing to hear that there is district staff who are not fully informed, but families have seven Board representatives who are available to help.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Islas ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:17 p.m.