

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Fresno Unified School District
October 8, 2008**

**Fresno, California
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Office of the Board of Education, Fresno Unified School District, Education Center, 2309 Tulare Street, Fresno California 93721.

Regular Meeting

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on October 8, 2008, there were present Members Asadoorian, Davis, Johnson, Mills, Nunez, Ryan, and President Vang. Also present was Superintendent Hanson.

President Vang convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room for the purpose of a workshop on the English Learners.

Management Oversight Workshop on English Learners (EL)

This workshop included a presentation by staff on English Learners' academic performance, challenges, as well as current and future initiatives pertaining to services for English Learners with a focus on improving the quality of instruction and to outline the big overarching items that are in the EL program. The topics covered during the presentation portion of the agenda are:

1. Brief history of English Learners in FUSD
2. Overview of existing services
3. Overview of "next steps" in improvement efforts.

Superintendent Hanson provided the Board with a brief introduction of the workshop. Associate Superintendent Tucker, Assistant Superintendent Maldonado and Executive Director Calhoun provided the purpose of the EL workshop and background information describing the work to ensure that all English Learners excel in reading, writing, and math; create a shared understanding of English Learners and the actions needed to ensure their academic success; and describe the current actions taking place to meet the many challenges of English Learners.

Superintendent Hanson announced the launch of a Superintendent's English Learner Task Force that will study the programs that are being provided to the English Learners and report to the Board in the spring of 2009 prior to the board's adoption of a budget for 2009/2010. The Task Force will review best practices, research and hear from leaders in the field along with reviewing current programs and achievement of English Learners. It is important to note that FUSD staff and community stakeholders will be included along with the Council of Great City Schools research on successful English Learner programs.

Management Oversight Workshop on English Learners – continued

The task force will be comprised of community members and district employees to gather information and make recommendations for improving the academic achievement of English Learners. The Fresno Unified School District serves more than 20,000 English Learners whose academic achievement lags behind other students. The task force will make recommendations to the Board of Education in spring of 2009.

Comments/questions were made by Members Nunez, Mills, Davis, Ryan, President Vang, and Superintendent Hanson.

A copy of the PowerPoint is available in the Board Office upon request.

President Vang recessed for a BREAK at 4:00 p.m. and RECONVENED to Closed Session at 4:15 p.m. to discuss items 1 through 4 and RECONVENED in Open Session at 5:34 p.m. with Student Members Facciani and Thomas present.

Staff Present

CFO Quinto, Associate Superintendents Marinovich, Mecum, Persaud, Tucker, CTO Madden, CIO Turnbull, Assistant Superintendents, Bengel, Coronado, Evans, Franks, Jones, Locker, Maldonado, and Smits.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

1. By a vote of 7-0-0, the Board took action in Closed Session to authorize the District to initiate administrative dismissal proceedings involving one certificated employee.
2. By a vote of 7-0-0, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Esmeralda Ortiz to Counselor, Edison High School.

Pledge of Allegiance

Webster Elementary School parent, Martina Rosas led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Rosas is an active parent volunteer and has helped to organize many fundraisers with the Parent Booster Club. She participates in CBET classes to learn English to support her children.

Reports from Student Board Representatives

Student Representative Stephanie Vasquez from Sunnyside High School provided an update and report from Student Board Representatives hosted by Sunnyside School with Members Davis and Mills present. She acknowledged the student ambassadors' from Terronez Middle School.

Resolution Recognizing October as Disability Awareness Month

ADOPTED, as recommended, the Proclamation recognizing October as Disability Awareness Month. Fresno Unified School District serves 8,000 students with disabilities and is dedicated to providing services to these students and their families, as well as raising awareness of the unique needs of these students and their contributions to our District and to the community.

Resolution Recognizing October as Disability Awareness Month – continued

Member Asadoorian moved for approval, seconded by Member Davis, which carried unanimously on a roll call vote of 9-0-0 as follows: Student Member Facciani, Thomas, Members Asadoorian, Davis, Johnson, Mills, Nunez, Ryan, and President Vang. Student Rodrigo Campos a 10th grade student at Hoover High School in regular classes and on graduation track accepted the resolution. He has been an ambassador at conferences and was nominated at Wawona Middle School as 8th grade boy of the year.

Superintendent Reported the following:

- **Special Education Students at Ahwahnee Middle School Win First Place at the Fair**
As they celebrate and recognize students with disabilities during Disability Awareness Month, he is pleased to report that students at Ahwahnee Middle School won first place for their fisherman scarecrow at the Fresno Fair. Since the students are deaf and hard of hearing, the students learned through vocabulary development activities to plan and build the scarecrow. He congratulated the students.
- **Astronaut Delivered Career Ready Message to Wolters Elementary Students**
Students at Wolters Elementary School had the opportunity to hear Astronaut Duane (Digger) Carey talk about the importance of becoming a career ready graduate. The students learned about how Carey prepared to be an astronaut and his experience in space.
- **California Secretary of State Debra Bowen to visit McLane High School**
California Secretary of State Debra Bowen will visit McLane High School to talk to students about the importance of civic engagement and exercising the right to vote. They are pleased to welcome Secretary Bowen to Fresno Unified School District.
- **Superintendent's English Learner Task Force Announced**
Announced the launch of the Superintendent's English Learners Task Force. This Task Force will study the programs that they are providing to the English Learners and provide a report to the Board in the spring of 2009 prior to the board's adoption of a budget for 2009/2010. The Task Force will review best practices, research and hear from leaders in the field along with reviewing current programs and achievement of English Learners. It is important to note that FUSD staff, teachers and community stakeholders will be included along with the Council of Great City Schools research on successful English Learner programs.
- **FUSD Receives AT&T High School Success Grant**
Reported that Fresno Unified School District has been awarded a nearly \$300,000 grant to be received over the next four years from AT&T. The High School Success grant will be used to target students in all Fresno Unified high and middle schools who have scored at a proficient or advanced level on standardized tests, but have an academic grade point average less than 2.0. They are fortunate to have business leaders like AT&T who value education and understand the importance of community investment. This significant grant will bolster our efforts to keep our students in school and on target to graduate.
- **\$2.9 Million Grant to Boost Advanced Placement Courses for FUSD Students**
Reported that Fresno Unified School District will receive \$2.9 million from the US Department of Education over a three-year period to boost the development, expansion, and alignment of Advanced Placement and pre-AP courses at the high schools and middle schools. The grant activities will also include study trips to universities and colleges for middle school students and their parents, College Board workshops, and after-school and weekend study sessions for students in AP courses.

On motion by Member Ryan, seconded by Member Nunez the Consent Agenda, exclusive of Agenda Item: A-3, approved on a roll call vote of 9-0-0 as follows: Student Member Facciani, Thomas, Members Asadoorian, Davis, Johnson, Mills, Nunez, Ryan, and President Vang.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

A-1, Personnel List

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

A-2, 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 September 24, 2008, Regular Board Meeting.

~~A-3, Resolution 2008-23, Support of a California Single Payer Health Care Plan~~

~~Included in the Board binders is Resolution 2008-23 Support of a California Single Payer Health Care Plan. Single payer is a term used to describe a type of financing system. It refers to one entity acting as administrator, or "payer." In the case of health care, a single payer system would be set up such that one entity—a government organization—would collect all health care fees, and pay out all health care costs.~~

A-4, Three Independent Contractor Services Agreements Outlined on the Matrix for Roosevelt, Cambridge, and Fresno Adult Schools

APPROVED, as recommended, a matrix outlining the services of the three Independent Contractor Services Agreements for the following school sites:

- Roosevelt High School: California Teaching Fellows coordination of individual and small group tutoring services in CAHSEE math and English, and AVID classrooms for \$79,500.00, effective upon Board approval until June 30, 2009. Administrative fee based on ten tutors at \$175 per month for nine months (\$15,750.00), and Teaching Fellow scholarships for volunteer tutoring and professional development not to exceed 66 hours per month (\$63,750.00).
- Cambridge High School: Action Learning Systems for professional learning, and content area and academic coaching during prep periods and after schools hours for Cambridge teachers for \$14,000.00, effective upon Board approval until June 12, 2009. Fee based on 14 days at eight hours per day.
- Fresno Adult School: Federico Colleges, Inc., to provide classes in Spanish to Fresno Adult School students for a not to exceed amount of \$75,000.00 (\$3.50 per student attendance hour), effective upon Board approval until June 30, 2009.

Total cost of the contract: Roosevelt, \$79,500, and Cambridge, \$14,000.00 will be paid from each school's site Title I funding; Adult school contract will be paid out of apportionment funds.

A-5, 2007/08 Year-End Closing Budget Revision

APPROVED, as recommended, the 2007/08 Year-end Closing Budget Revision. Education Code section 42601 and Fresno Unified Board Policy 3110 allow the Superintendent and/or designee to make any necessary budget revisions at year-end to permit payment of obligations. All expenditures were supported by available District funds. Per Education Code 42601 and Board Policy 3110, the following funds recognize additional revenue and expense for 2007/08: Adult Education Fund, Liability Fund, Cafeteria Fund, and Tax Override and COP Debt Service fund.

A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**A-6, Filing of the Notices of Completion for Projects Listed Below**

RATIFIED, as recommended, Notices of Completion for projects that have been completed according to plans and specifications:

1. Bid #2735, Installation of Bleachers at Bullard High School
2. Bid #2823 C, Structural, Asphalt Rehabilitation at Gibson Elementary School
3. Bid #2826, Concrete Replacement at Computech Middle School
4. Bid # 2831 D, Asphalt Rehabilitation at Forkner Elementary School
5. Bid #2837 B, Exterior Painting at Ahwahnee Middle School

The 10% retention will be released after ratification of the Notices of Completion. Sufficient funds are available in the 2008/09 Deferred Maintenance Funds.

A-7, Claim #08-0904-0270 for Norma Alderson

DENIED, as recommended, a Claim for Damages for Norma Alderson, #08-0904-0270. The matter has been referred to the District's Director of Benefits and Risk Management for further handling.

President Vang stated the Brown Act requires the public be given an opportunity to speak on matters relating to the school district's business during Board meetings and this Board welcomes public comment as designated on the agenda. Matters presented during Public Comment will be referred to the Superintendent for appropriate follow up. The Board recognizes that Public comment speakers often have very strong feelings regarding school district issues, which may involve individual school district employees or other persons. However, the Board expects all speakers to appreciate the rights of others by conducting themselves in a civil and respectful manner at all times. As Board President, I cannot permit any speaker to discuss confidential information regarding a particular student or employee and must ensure that speakers abide by their obligation to respect the rights of others. The board appreciates your observance of these principles of civility, respect and order, which will best ensure that the right of public comment is safeguarded without compromising the efficient and effective conduct of Board meetings.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**Timothy Barber**

Expressed concerns with the lesson plan used at Tioga Middle School and read a statement on behalf of his fiancée Erin Hawkins. He stated that the blatant disregard of state and federal laws must not go unpunished and if it does, it will set a precedent for further denial of parent rights. He requested the Board read the list of words provided to the students and questioned the Board if they would allow someone to provide such words to their children. He has faith in the Board to take action.

Superintendent Hanson announced to the public that it is not seen as less than important because one family had a complaint and as stated in a previous interview, the District was wrong and made a mistake and they have communicated with families who had students in the classroom. The District has handled this personnel matter and apologized to the Barber family and hopes the Barber family can move on and so can the district.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – continued**Sandra Klauschie**

Expressed concerns with the profanity list used at Tioga Middle School and hopes the Board has an opportunity to view the list. She noted that she has shared the list with a wide variety of community members and they are shocked the district would allow such a lesson plan. She stated that the administration at Tioga should learn from their mistakes and move forward instead of trying to cover their errors. Tioga needs more time collaborating with parents to come up with good ideas in following the rules in setting a good example.

J. P. Sarkisian

Expressed concerns with the profanity list at Tioga Middle School and it should not be tolerated. He requested the Board take some disciplinary actions on this matter.

Margarita Cabellero

Provided the Board with the DELAC agenda for the month of October and stated that they have been notified by the Assistant Superintendent of EL Services that they need 7 to 10 days to prepare the agenda. She informed the EL staff that according to the law; only requires 72 hours. The information was provided to the EL Services on September 29 and they received a letter in writing that it will not happen. She expressed concerns that the EL Services are setting timelines for the DELAC committee to meet and to set their agenda and she feels that they should have the same privilege to set their agendas. She requested the Board present the agenda to the EL Services staff to mail to the committee representatives informing them of the date of the next meeting.

Juan Carlos Chavez

Provided the Board with documentation to show the date they requested their meeting with the committee representatives with sufficient time as the law states and their request was denied. He requested that if the Assistant Superintendent of EL Services does not have the time to meet with members or feels she can not work with the parents, he requested she be removed from her position and replace with someone who is willing to work with the parents.

Ernesto Cisneros

Expressed concerns with the district staff respecting the law and the needs of the parents. The parents are not requesting anything that is not against the law. He urged the superintendent to please adhere to their concerns by either in writing or by meeting.

Superintendent Hanson stated that as the DELAC representatives have come before the Board to address their concerns regarding the setting of the DELAC agenda. He publicly noted that the Board received documentation of a request by the DELAC representatives who are not in agreement with the EL Services department to set a meeting to prepare the agenda for the October 30, DELAC meeting. There was a request on September 29 to meet with Assistant Superintendent Maldonado who replied to their request in writing indicating that there was not enough time under the law for public meetings to notify all the representatives in a timely manner. It's not that the district is not willing to work the committee members; in fact, the district is willing to work the representatives and the district wants to make sure it is compliant with all the open meeting laws. If he is not understanding the DELAC representatives concerns, he would like to hear from them. Assistant Superintendent Maldonado did quite well in responding to their concerns, but if there is something distinct, he will make himself available.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – continued**Jose Castro**

Expressed concerns with many matters and also the one Superintendent Hanson just addressed. He noted that about four months ago, there was a complaint that was submitted regarding Kirk Elementary and still waiting for a response to this concern. If the Constituent Services department is not working, his recommendation to the Board is to close the department. The complaints are to stop the arbitrations before they escalate. His main concern is the respect for the parents and the misuse of EL funds in the district. His final comment to the Board and Superintendent is that they remove Assistant Superintendent Maldonado and replace her with someone who is willing to work with the parents.

Erin Hawkins

Wanted to take this opportunity to address the Board and request that a thorough investigation be carried out on the manner of the profanity lesson plan used at Tioga Middle School. She addressed the Board as a mother who feels that she has been betrayed by the administration. She stated laws were broken and it was not about whether or not this was an appropriate lesson plan. She stands before the Board not for an apology, but for something to be done about her rights as a parent being violated or they will take this matter to a higher level.

Olga Valle

Expressed concerns with a situation she informed the Board last year that happened at her school site with the administrator mishandling a special education student in the cafeteria in front of other students and staff members. She reported the incident to the Board and an investigation was carried out, but there has been no resolution. She feels that due to reporting this incident, it has brought on some retaliation towards her job performance.

Paul Garcia

Expressed concerns with the lessons being taught in the schools and the hiring process and the lack of respect for the EL parents. He reminded the Board that when he was president of the District Bilingual Advisory Committee many years ago, they filed a complaint against the district and for the Board to remember the past; don't want to see a repeat.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**B-8. Request for Proposal (RFP) #2832, Comprehensive Anti-Bullying/Molestation Program**

AWARDED, as recommended, RFP #2832 to the firm indicated below to provide Comprehensive Anti-Bullying/Molestation services for a five (5) year period.

- Modell Consulting Group

Funds are included in the Title II budget. Phase One and Two (Data Collection/Curriculum Development) cost for each phase is \$335,000; Phase Three, Four, and Five (Program Implementation of Cohorts 1, 2, and 3) cost for each phase is \$215,000. Total five year cost is \$1,315,000.00.

Superintendent Hanson highlighted the long-time item being formatted for the Boards consideration. Assistant Superintendent Jones and Associate Superintendent Tucker and other staff members have spent several years working with community members about crafting a comprehensive anti-bullying/molestation program. They feel that they are at a point where not only suitable, but one that will help to propel issues of safety and security on the campuses.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued**B-8, Request for Proposal (RFP) #2832, Comprehensive Anti-Bullying/Molestation Program - continued**

Assistant Superintendent Jones provided the Board with information on a request for proposal for the Comprehensive Anti-Bullying/Molestation Program. These services will support all of the district's goals and are essential components of preparing career ready graduates.

Associate Superintendent Tucker provided the Board with the system of support for all students and provided information on the RFP that will open the doors in taking the foundational efforts that were described even deeper. Safe and Civil Schools will provide the framework and the infrastructure for the safe and introduction of the implementation of Fresno Unified's Anti-Bullying/Molestation program.

Member Asadoorian questioned how will this program fit in to the teachers' normal day?

Associate Superintendent Tucker stated that for teachers who have already started with the first cohort of schools. Teachers have come together with classified support staff to identify common areas and developed teaching lessons plans. This will take the place of any lesson plans that have been developed at the beginning of the school year to teach structure and behavioral and appropriate conduct.

Member Nunez questioned at what grade level with this start?

Assistant Superintendent Jones stated that it will start with elementary, but there are 3 cohorts and working with Safe and Civil Schools will train staff at 20 to 24 school sites per year.

Member Nunez questioned if at any time are parents involved?

Assistant Superintendent Jones stated there is a parent component and there is training available for all stakeholders and there is curriculum available with an intensive needs assessment.

The following individuals addressed the board with their thoughts regarding this item:

- Tony Pings stated that this program will not stop bullying, but it will sure change it and reduce it and will not stop rape, but it will interfere with it and reduce the victims and make it more curable and get them the help early on. This is about a commitment to changing the direction the district is going. He recommended that this item come before the Board on an annual basis prior to the budget for an update by the consultant and a need for some FTE's ongoing support to the sites once this contract ends.
- Dr. Modell stated that he is looking forward to working with Fresno Unified and moving forward.

Comments by Members Nunez, Asadoorian, and Superintendent Hanson.

Member Mills moved for approval, seconded by Member Ryan, which carried a 7-0-2 vote with *Student Members Facciani and Thomas stepping away.*

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued**B-9, How FUSD is Providing the Arts, Activities and Athletics in Support of Developing Career Ready Graduates**

Staff provided an update on how the district is actively providing programs and services to support students in achieving Goal 2. Specifically, information shared on how the visual and performing arts, activities as well as elementary, middle and high school athletics are supporting the development of career ready graduates.

Associate Superintendent Marinovich, Music Coordinator McKnight, Campus Culture Coordinator Liles, and Athletic Manager Semmen provided the Board with an update on District Goal No. 2 – *all students will engage in arts, activities, and athletics.*

Associate Superintendent Marinovich stated that there are many research studies nationwide in this particular area that insinuate the value of student engagement and shared two of the quotes from the study – “students engaged in extracurricular activities are less likely to dropout and more likely to have high academic achievement” and “of particular importance, students at-risk for school failure appear to benefit even more from participation by increasing connectedness to the school and by helping to build student strengths thereby increasing self-esteem and positive social networks.” He stated that these are just two of the quotes from the many studies that have been conducted in the importance of engagement in the extracurricular activities.

Music Coordinator McKnight extended an invitation to the Board to ‘Fresno’s Finest’ on March 31 at the Saroyan Theater.

Athletic Manager Semmen extended an invitation the Board to attend the next Middle School Football Championship on Saturday, November 1 at McLane Stadium.

In conclusion, Associate Superintendent Marinovich stated that in just a few years, they have come a very long way in supporting the efforts to see that all students are engaged in athletics, arts or activities.

Student Member Facciani departed the board meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Member Nunez requested a list of all the events that are happening at the school sites at all levels.

Assistant Superintendent Marinovich stated that he will provide the Board with a list of all activities and events.

Member Davis expressed concerns with funding to continue the Link Crew program and is asking the Superintendent and CFO to help continue funding the arts, activities and athletics programs.

Comments/questions were made by Members Nunez, Davis, Ryan, Mills, and Superintendent Hanson.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

There are no items for receive.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent Hanson

- On Friday, the FUSD team will travel to Long Beach to meet with staff on the partnership with Fresno Unified School District.
- On Sunday, he will be traveling to New York with Associate Superintendent Marinovich and Executive Officer Harris to meet with College Board staff and Tuesday, he will be meeting with the Broad Urban Prize.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time, President Vang declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



MICHAEL E. HANSON, Secretary to the Board of Education

Board Approved: January 14, 2009