

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Fresno Unified School District
FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

**Fresno, California
February 4, 2009**

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

Special Meeting

At a special meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on February 4, 2009, there were present Members Asadoorian, Johnson, Moore, Ryan, Vang, and President Davis. Also present was Superintendent Hanson. *Member Mills was absent.*

President Davis convened the meeting at 8:04 a.m. in the Board Room with Consultant Sarah Glover with the Center for Reform of School Systems (CRSS). The Board and administration team reviewed and discussed items listed below.

Objectives and Outcomes

- Solidify goals of Sustainability
- Update on progress on reform policies, constituent service
- Establish plans for civic capacity building
- Begin sharing ideas for next generation of reform policies and continued board development

Look Back/Look Forward

- Where the Board has come from
- Identify key accomplishments
- Refresh on the RGA framework

2006	2008/09	2010/11: Desired
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on system improvements: budget, facilities, and technology • Lack of leadership • Administration in disarray • Misleading and lack of information for new board members • Board involved in active problem-solving and micro-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More student-centered: EL, CTE, College Board, Equity and Access • Stable administrative leadership; strong leadership team • Budget presents an opportunity to prioritize • Solid, balanced outreach to newest board member • More focused and better understanding of board role and responsibilities • FUSD is seen differently than it was a few years ago; people will have them lead if they will lead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board is known for clarity of purpose and highly focused on the core mission • Admired for the strength of our graduates • Keep closed session items confidential • Identify and help recruit high quality school board candidates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to create a pipeline

Look Back: Update on Key Milestones

- Implementation of core beliefs and theory of action.
- Development of the administrative regulation process for Professional Learning and Accountability policies; timeline for implementation.

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Johnson, Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, Superintendent Hanson, CFO Quinto, and Legal Counsel deGoede.

Core Beliefs and Theory of Action Implementation – presentation by CIO Turnbull

- Summary of key ways in which the district has embedded the Board adopted Core Beliefs and Commitments so that they are the foundation of the district’s everyday work. This list is not a complete list and grows continuously.
 - Superintendent’s Office
 - Accountability
 - Human Resources
 - School Leadership
 - CTE Commission
 - School Support Services
 - Information Technology

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Johnson, Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, Superintendent Hanson, and CIO Turnbull.

President Davis recessed for a BREAK at 10:00 a.m. and RECONVENED at 10:15 a.m.

Reform Policy Implementation – presentation by Executive Director Harris

- Accountability
 - Accountability Administration Regulation (AR) being developed.
 - Draft AR that will be shared with key stakeholder groups to assure it is well understood and fair and does it make sense.
 - The general timeline:
 - 2008: develop/pass accountability policy.
 - 2009: pilot AR at 7 or 8 school sites, which have not yet been determined.
 - 2010/11: implementation at all school sites.
- Professional Learning
 - Administrative Regulation process will follow the same general timeline as accountability.
 - Draft AR that will be shared with key stakeholder groups to assure it is well understood and fair and does it make sense.
 - Draft AR being formed by the feedback from the professional learning oversight workshop and creation of overall professional learning project plan.

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Johnson, Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, Superintendent Hanson, Executive Director Harris, and Associate Superintendent Tucker.

Constituent Service reviewed– *presentation by Administrator Arias*

- Review policy
- Discuss reporting format, structure
- Is Constituent Service achieving our goals?

Feedback on Constituent Service:

- System is functioning well.
- Sorts out complaints by the constituents.
- Great connection/communication with DELAC Executive Board.
- Have data to show that they have reduced time-to-resolution from 23 to 5 days.
- Constituent Services/CFEN working together to resolve issues.

Feedback on Constituent Service reports:

- Need more depth/detailed on responses.
- Identify any system-wide issues.
- Include trend data and system response in Board Communication, in advance of quarterly report being placed on the agenda.

Member Asadoorian requested information on the Ombudsperson position and the job duties.

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Johnson, Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, Superintendent Hanson, CIO Turnbull, and Administrator Arias.

President Davis recessed for a LUNCH at 12:00 p.m. and RECONVENED at 12:30 p.m.

Student Performance Review: What are they trying to change?

- Review subset of data from The Broad Foundation’s data report card about Fresno
- Update on Data Dashboard implementation – *presentation by Executive Director Harris*

Feedback on Data Dashboard:

- Should the Board consider doing its own data dashboard?
- Important to look at data trend both internally and externally. In addition, they would like to get the districts in California and trend ourselves against them – consider what the trend looks like.

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Johnson, Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, and Executive Director Harris.

Building Civic Capacity

- Identify key changes: new civic leaders; new economic environment
- Work underway (including work of task forces and how that contributes to civic capacity)
- Define the Board’s role.
- Develop action plan; commit to next steps.

Feedback on Building Civic Capacity:

- Need a strategy of outreach.
- Improve the message.

Feedback on Building Civic Capacity – continued

- Start with issues where they have a lot of common ground, i.e., safety, student preparedness, and job ready.
- Speak in layperson's terms.
- Provide the Board with key messages and talking points.

President Davis recessed for a BREAK at 1:50 p.m. and RECONVENED at 2:05 p.m.

- A Board member's role might be simply stated as having three parts:
 - District oversight.
 - Reflecting constituents.
 - Leading change and shaping opinion.
- Civic capacity is about developing the third part: leading change and shaping opinion. Things this Board can do to help lead change are to:
 - Confront misconceptions.
 - Visit schools in groups of 2-3 on a weekly basis.
 - Stay on message about any topic being discussed; refer to Board President or spokesperson when asked for comments.
 - Stay in the conversations about moving the 4 goals forward and give energy to the big agenda.
 - Respect each other like they are on the same team.
 - Carefully read Board Communications and board materials prior to the board meeting and call staff for questions.
 - More community outreach and involvement.
 - Understand the Board's role and responsibilities.
 - Talk to the community about the work being done.
 - Read, listen and do all possible to learn about best practices and be knowledgeable about what is working.
 - Be more positive about the good things going on in the district.
 - Keep trustee area informed.
 - Become more available to constituents.
- Things the Board must not do to undermine change efforts:
 - Give energy to small, non goal-focused issues.
 - Speak to the press.
 - Disclose Closed Session information.
 - Talk to community or media in ways that undermine the Board and/or administration.
 - Engage in pettiness.

President Davis and Board Clerk Asadoorian will identify the change to the Civic Leadership Subcommittee that will develop an action plan for the Board.

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Johnson Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, Superintendent Hanson, and Legal Counsel deGoede.

Member Johnson departed the Board meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Next Generation of Reform Policies

- Discuss new reform policy topics.
- How/when will they move ahead on these?
- What are the Board's responsibilities?

Feedback on the Next Generation of Reform Policies:

- Focused on implementing the recommendations of the CTE, EL and Equity and Access commissions.
 - There may be reform policies and/or revisions to existing policy that stem from the commissions' recommendations.
- Enrollment management is another large theme to start to focus on.
 - Students are the means of support of our district. This district can't continue to face declining enrollment.
 - Equity and access implications.
 - Are there enough programs and pathways for families in our district?
 - How can they be proactive in the face of charter, online, virtual and home school trends?

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

Board Development

- Orientation for new board members; review existing policy.
- Other board development ideas.

Feedback on Board Development:

- Regarding Board orientation:
 - Board candidates need to make sure they understand the role and responsibility of school board members.
- Consider a 3-part process:
 - Broad outreach to potential candidates.
 - Specific training for declared candidates.
 - Orientation for newly elected Board members.
- Update existing candidate and new Board member orientation policy.
- Other board development issues:
 - Need to revisit existing policies related to equity and access and determine if there is a need to update or revise given the work of the commission.

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, Superintendent Hanson and Legal Counsel deGoede.

Next Steps

- Finalize responsibilities, action plans through June 2009, next Sustainability meeting.
- Identify interim check points.
- Feedback to Consultant Sarah Glover on type of support to provide in Sustainability.

Feedback on the Next Steps:

- Civic Leadership Board Sub-committee to develop civic leadership action plan for the board.
- Update existing board candidate and new board member orientation policy with specifics.
 - President Davis will confirm a process and timeline frame for completion.
- Set a date for the next Sustainability visit.
- Items for future consideration:
 - Addressing board meetings structure in the next sustainability visit.
 - Establishing a thorough, informative board self-evaluation process.

Comments/questions were made by Members Asadoorian, Moore, Ryan, Vang, President Davis, Superintendent Hanson, and Executive Director Harris.

President Davis opened the unscheduled oral communication and with no speakers, closed the unscheduled oral communication.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time, President Davis declared the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.



MICHAEL E. HANSON, Secretary to the
Board of Education

Board Approved: April 15, 2009