

From: [Chau Bui](#)
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Subject: FW: We are Fresno Unified -- September 18, 2023 (9/18/2023)
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 2:57:08 PM
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September 18, 2023



Fresno Unified School District

WE ARE FRESNO UNIFIED

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

*ACHIEVING
OUR GREATEST
Potential!*



Photo of the Week



Patriot Day Commemoration at Duncan
Polytechnical High School

Dates to Know

March 22 (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

(See more great Fresno Unified photos on our [Flickr](#))

Video of the Week



Faces: Letanya Patilla (see more [great Faces videos here](#))

Greetings!

We have a new name! The Community Zone e-newsletter is now called We are Fresno Unified to reflect our mission to share the good news about Fresno Unified's staff, students and schools, as well as education-related information useful to our community. We are Fresno Unified is emailed after every Fresno Unified Board of Education meeting, generally twice a month.

Celebrating our Employees, Schools and Students

High School Students are Bulldog Bound

Students can now join the Bulldog Bound program. This is a new partnership with Fresno State and is the college's guaranteed admissions program. It provides high school students from partnering school districts a guaranteed spot after graduation if they meet the minimum California State University requirements.

By participating in Bulldog Bound, students receive:

- Guaranteed admissions as early as ninth grade
- Early admission for 11th graders
- On-the-spot admissions for 12th graders
- Fresno State ID card, email and library access
- Help with career and academic major exploration
- Dual enrollment opportunities*
- Assistance with application to Fresno State
- Early financial aid estimates
- Scholarship opportunities
- Campus life experience
- Summer student experience opportunities
- Resources for parents/guardians

[More information](#)

**Scheduled to start in 2024-25 using the Uni-track and/or other models offered by Fresno State.*

FUSD students Learn about USC with Bridge2College

FUSD students participating in the Bridge2College program in Fresno County attended a local informational meeting about attending USC. They learned about the admissions process for private institutions and financial aid. The mission of this organization is to provide leadership workshops on college readiness, college tours and scholarships for underrepresented exemplary students.

Gala set for October to Raise Funds for Scholarships

Save the date for the State of Education Gala to benefit students, put on by the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools. The dinner is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 12 at The Manor Estate in Madera.

[State of Education Gala Flyer](#)

Superintendent Board Remarks from September 18, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks on a somber tone, recognizing the two tragic accidents near Roosevelt High School and Birney Elementary School last week. While waiting for the FAX bus after school across the street from Roosevelt High School, 11 of our students were hit by an out-of-control vehicle. The following day as a Birney mother walked her four children to school that morning, she and one of her children, our sixth grade student, were hit by an elderly driver. In both accidents, superintendent is grateful that all involved will recover, but the physical injuries were not minimal, and the emotional toll is immeasurable. The superintendent urged our community to please drive safely and attentively around our schools. Accidents of this nature should NOT be the norm around campuses and Fresno Unified needs our full community's support to ensure students are safe coming and going from school.

- Superintendent then provided an update on our Every Child Is A Reader literacy initiative. After task force meetings last spring, school site leaders have been working within regions to create individualized regional literacy plans, designed to meet their unique students where they are. Plans have been co-created by school site leaders, community partners, families, and district staff with input from Fresno Unified Trustees as well. Each regional literacy plan is designed under the same districtwide parameters but is built by the leaders themselves ensuring autonomy and buy-in by the most important stakeholders on the front end – instead of a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach. Principals in the Fresno High region presented on Monday to district leaders and Trustee Levine, and all other regions will present to their regional trustee and district leaders next week. During these meetings, superintendent along with the trustee and other leaders are able to provide feedback on the plans prior to finalizing and implementing this year.

- Superintendent Nelson then gave an update on negotiations with the Fresno Teachers Association. Last week Fresno Unified completed the fact-finding process with the Fresno

Teachers Association. The week started with two full days of mediation and the Fresno Unified team had hope to reach an agreement, but unfortunately that was unsuccessful. On the third day the traditional fact-finding hearing was held with presentations from both FTA and the district team. Superintendent shared that we now await the neutral fact-finding report which will then be made public. Fresno Unified continues to meet with FTA in the meantime and hopes that the release of the report will be another opportunity to reach an agreement. Nonetheless, superintendent looks forward to the release of the report as he is confident the report will show staff and community how hard Fresno Unified has worked to come to a mutually-beneficial agreement with our Fresno Teachers Association. Superintendent also shared a few facts to clear any confusion as we continue negotiating:

- First, superintendent reassured all that Fresno Unified will continue to do everything we can to avoid a strike, and if a strike does become reality we are prepared to ensure our schools stay open, safe, and full of learning. No school days will be missed, and Fresno Unified will not be extending the school year to make up for any days that teachers choose to strike,

- No one's health benefits are being cut. In fact, Fresno Unified's benefits continue to improve with the JHMB team negotiating to provide 100% district paid coverage starting January 1st, 2024,

- Fresno Unified's offer to FTA will take the average teacher salary to a little more than \$100,000 per year,

- Fresno Unified's total compensation package for teachers is the highest in the Central Valley, and

- Fresno Unified teachers reach the top of the salary schedule faster than other districts, meaning their lifetime earnings are greater.

- Superintendent Nelson then closed his remarks with several shout-outs including:

- Shoutout to Fresno Unified's business services team who received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International. The team received the prestigious award for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, specifically recognizing their excellence in budget presentation including their fantastic Budget Book.

- Congratulations to Amanda Harvey, Nutrition Services Director, who has been shortlisted for the California Food for California Kids innovation award. Amanda will be recognized at the California Farm to School Network Conference in October for her work in expanding the Farm to School program in the Central Valley.

- Congratulations to Parent University, who is a finalist for the California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award this year. Just this morning the team had their validation visit, showing the CSBA representative our amazing Family Engagement Hours and Family Leadership Academies in action. With Parent University's overhaul and revamp last school year, they were able to serve four times more families than any other single year in their 15 years of existence. Superintendent shared [this video](#) showcasing the Bullard Regional Family

Engagement Event Parent University put on just last week.

- Congratulations to the five Roosevelt students who took top spots in the One Voice – The Spirit of 9/11 art and poetry contest. Junior Mary Vasquez and freshman Cindy Parra, taught by Josephine Allen, placed in the top three in the art category. The three top winners in the poetry category were juniors Ger Thao, Katherine Calloway and Meridian Yang, taught by Sophia Norman. All five students will receive \$1,000 scholarships.

- Congratulations to Yaslin Carrasco from Edison High School and Isabella Gallegos from Bullard High School, who won \$1,000 Latina Women's Conference Scholarship Awards.

- Congratulations to Enrica Torres, RSP teacher at Leavenworth Elementary School, who received a \$1,000 grant from Lee's Air, Plumbing and Heating.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

News from our District

Author will Speak on the Racism

[Heather McGhee](#), author of "The Sum of Us," will speak at Fresno High School's Royce Hall on Wednesday, September 27. See the flyer to register.

[Heather McGhee Flyer](#)

[Heather McGhee Flyer in Spanish](#)

[Heather McGhee Flyer in Hmong](#)

Families invited to Feria de Educación

Students and families are invited to attend the eighth annual Feria de Educación on Saturday, October 14, at Fresno State from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feria de Educación provides an opportunity for Spanish-speaking families to learn about higher education institutions, college admission requirements, careers and professions, and what is needed to earn a college degree. The event will include workshops, campus tours, Kids Zone, Reading Garden, photo booth, performances by los Danzantes de Aztlán, resource fair and the special appearance of Leo Gonzalez.

Schools are encouraged to help make transportation arrangements for students.

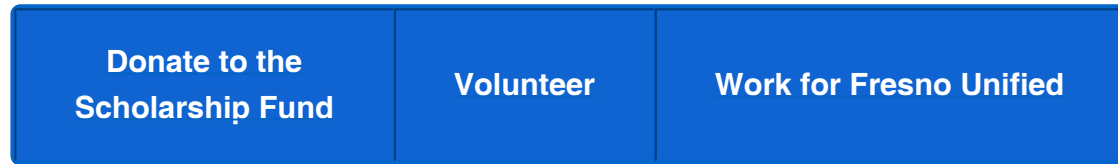
[Feria de Educacion Flyer in English](#)

[Feria de Educacion Flyer in Spanish](#)

Important Information about Social Services Benefits

The county Department of Social Services needs the community's help with spreading the word about the county (and state) system changes coming soon. For anyone accessing benefits from our social services, they need to know that the system they've used (MyBenefits CalWIN and DSS PASS) will switch to a new system called BenefitsCal. Any Fresno County family accessing Medi-Cal or Cal-Fresh services from Social Services will need the attached information.

[BenefitsCal Info in English](#)
[BenefitsCal Info in Spanish](#)



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