

MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Fresno Unified School District
APRIL 9, 2008

Fresno, California
April 9, 2008

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 April 9, 2008, there were present Members Asadoorian, Davis, Johnson, Mills, Nunez, Ryan, and President Vang. Also present was Acting Superintendent Quinto. *Superintendent Hanson was absent.*

President Vang convened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room and immediately adjourned to Closed Session to address items 1 through 6 listed on the Closed Session agenda. Member Davis report out at 5:30 and stated the Board will reconvene at 5:45 p.m., in the Board Room with Student Member Vasquez present. *Student Board Member Curry was absent.*

Staff Present

Acting CFO Fortson, Associate Superintendents Hauser, Marinovich, Mecum, Tucker, Persaud, Chief Technology Officer Madden, Chief Information Officer Turnbull, Assistant Superintendents Bengel, Coronado, Franks, Locker, Marinovich, Persaud, and Smits. *Assistant Superintendent Jones was absent.*

Reporting Out of Closed Session

1. By a vote of 7-0-0, the Board took action in Closed Session to promote Maria Maldonado to Assistant Superintendent of English Learners Division.
2. By a vote of 7-0-0, the Board took action in Closed Session to hire Santino Danisi to Financial Analyst I to Fiscal Services.
3. The Board was informed of the promotion of Christine Stevens to Financial Analyst II, Fiscal Services.
4. The Board was informed of the promotion of Stacy Howard to Financial Analyst II, Fiscal Services.
5. The Board was informed of the Administrative Transfer of Ron Steele to Vice Principal II, Wawona Middle School.
6. The Board was informed of the Administrative transfer of Jodi Iroza-Pishione to Guidance/Categorical learning Coordinator, Tioga Middle School.
7. The Board was informed of the Administrative transfer of Stacy Swartout-McKinnon to Guidance Learning Coordinator, Tenaya Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance

Slater Elementary parent, Andrew Fabela led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Fabela is a star parent and a valuable member of the Slater family. Mr. Fabela volunteers in his daughter's first grade class and a kindergarten class. Andrew is Chairman of the School Site Council and helps with fundraisers.

Minutes

APPROVED, as recommended with the noted revisions by Members Asadoorian and Mills, the draft minutes for the February 12, 2008, Special Meeting, February 13 and February 27, 2008, Regular Meetings.

Member Mills moved for approval as corrected, seconded by Member Asadoorian, which carried an 8-0-1 vote with *Student Member Curry absent*.

Report from Student Board Representatives

Student Representative Taylor Abels reported provided the Board with an update from the Student Advisory Board meeting hosted by Fresno High School with Members Davis and Mills present.

Acting Superintendent Quinto Reported the following:

- **Astronaut Barbara Morgan visits Hoover High School**
 Welcomed NASA Astronaut Barbara Morgan to Hoover High School to help launch their new Engineering Magnet Program. Morgan is a Hoover High School graduate and was a crew member on the August 2007 space shuttle flight on the Endeavour. She spent the day at Hoover High School speaking to students at school assemblies and visiting classrooms.
- **Bullard TALENT Named 2008 California Distinguished School**
 Pleased to report that State Superintendent Jack O'Connell announced Bullard TALENT has been selected as a 2008 California Distinguished School. Bullard TALENT is one of 348 outstanding California elementary public schools honored this year. Congratulations to the entire Bullard TALENT staff and community for their excellent work. Fresno Unified School District has received 37 California Distinguished School awards since the program began in 1986.
- **Homan Elementary Receives Virtues and Character Education Recognition Award from Bonner Center**
 Homan Elementary School received the Bonner Center for Virtues and Character Education award for their outstanding work in promoting virtues and character education. The school will be honored on Wednesday, April 16, at the Fresno Convention Center.
- **Community Forum to be Held April 14 to Gather Input on Dailey School**
 Hold a community forum at 6:30 p.m. next Monday, April 14, to provide an update on the future use of Dailey School. The forum will be held in the gymnasium at Hamilton Elementary School.
- **Wawona Middle School to Celebrate their 50th Anniversary April 22**
 Wawona Middle School is celebrating its 50th year and they are hosting an open house on April 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. Wawona Jr. High School was opened in the 1957-58 school year. Past students, teachers, as the community are invited to attend. Bill Contente, the school's first music and band director, will be there leading Wawona's band.

On motion by Member Davis, seconded by Member Ryan the Consent Agenda, exclusive of Agenda Item: A-5, approved on a roll call vote of 8-0-1 as follows: Student Board Member Vasquez, Members Asadoorian, Davis, Johnson, Mills, Nunez, Ryan, and President Vang. *Student Members Curry was absent.*

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, the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the March 26, 2008, Regular Board Meeting.

A-3, Temporary Employment Agreement with Roland R. Fortson

RATIFIED, as recommended, an employment agreement between Fresno Unified School District and Roland R. Fortson for temporary assistance in the Administrative Services Division. Mr. Fortson will assist in the office of the Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Fortson will be on site from March 31, 2008 1 through May 2, 2008. The ending date of the agreement is flexible should Mr. Fortson's services be required beyond May 2. Funds are available in the unrestricted general fund for fiscal year 2007/08.

A-4, Submission of the Early Intervention for School Success Grant Applications with the Orange County Office of Education

APPROVED, as recommended, the proposal material for the Early Intervention for School Success (EISS) grant with the Orange County Office of Education to create professional learning communities to help teachers, support staff and parents provide each child, preschool through grade 2, with standards-based instruction. Over the years, 21 FUSD schools have participated in this program. Leavenworth is currently funded through 6/30/08. Previously funded schools include: Ayer, Aynesworth, Balderas, Burroughs, Centennial, Eaton, Ewing, Fremont, Greenberg, Heaton, Hidalgo, Holland, Homan, Jefferson, Kratt, McCardle, Muir, Pyle, Rowell, Slater, and Winchell. Grant amount is determined by the number of participating classrooms at each school site.

Grant Amount	Number of Classes
\$30,000 for 2 years	4-7 classes
\$50,000 for 2 years	8 or more classes (maximum award)

All program costs will be provided through the grant.

A-5, Budget Revision No. 5 for Fiscal Year 2007/08

PULLED for discussion.

A. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**A-6, Claim #07-0913-0282, (Minor)**

DENIED, as recommended, Claim for Damages from (Minor), #07-0913-0282. 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 Comments 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, he 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 their 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**Silas Cha**

Introduced the Southeast Asian Education Council, it is a volunteer body composed of leaders from the Lao, Hmong and Cambodian community. Their mission is to promote and support the educational advancement of Southeast Asian students in the community. He informed the Board that the Council has several defined purposes covering cultural support, working with parents, educators, schools, nurturing partnerships between the community and schools regarding linguistic, social, cultural and academic needs of the Southeast Asian student and they want to serve as advocates and advisors to the District. The Council would like to work closely with Fresno Unified School District.

Member Davis departed the board meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Martha Roberts

Provided information on the International Baccalaureate Art Program. They currently have 3 students who will be having a portfolio review this year. The Fresno African American Art Museum will be presenting those students portfolios, a special review at the Museum this Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m., and everyone is invited to attend.

Robert Mitchell

Commended the Board on the appointment of a principal at Carver School, but expressed concerns on the loss of 2 positions, a Vice Principal and a Guidance Learning Coordinator and requested those positions be placed back at the school site to assist the Principal.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – continued**Margarita Caballero**

Questioned why the DELAC committee was not given an opportunity for input on the selection process for the English Learners administrative position. The DELAC committee members have different working schedules and need ample notice to arrange for time off to participate in this process.

Jose Castro

Reported the action taken at a meeting held at Del Mar School with the City of Fresno in which the Council approved half a million dollars to build a bridge and fence to protect the lives of the students.

Member Nunez stated that CAC Chair Joe Barron submitted an email to the Board and would like the email entered into record and requested legal counsel's advice on Mr. Barron's request.

Legal Council deGoede stated that Mr. Barron's email should be addressed as a received item.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA**A-5, Budget Revision No. 5 for Fiscal Year 2007/08**

APPROVED, as recommended, Budget Revision No. 5 for fiscal year 2007/08. Periodic updates to the District's budget are presented to the Board of Education for approval. Budget Revision No. 5 includes adjustments for the final State adopted budget, adjustment for the actual beginning balances, and necessary adjustments to support the acceptance of various grant awards and other fund adjustments. Noted on the Agenda Form and in the backup material.

The following individual addressed the Board with his thoughts and concerns regarding this item:

- Jose Castro expressed concerns with the numbers presented in the budget and with the funds given to Kirk School for the 2008/09. He expressed concerns with the District using Title I funds to hire administrators and stated that these funds are to be utilized for students; not the administrators.

Member Ryan moved for approval, seconded by Member Johnson, which carried an 8-0-1 vote *with Student Member Curry absent*.

Member Mills questioned if a staff member would address Mr. Castro's concern.

President Vang stated that the matter has been referred to Acting Superintendent Quinto.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued**B-7, 7 – 12 Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program**

Associate Superintendent Marinovich and Coordinator Yolanda Juarez presented the 7 – 12 Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program. As a result of implementing 2006-07 Targeted Improvement Actions and Assembly Bill 1802, the District's level of support and expectations to prepare college-ready graduates has increased in focus. The presentation illustrated the changing culture of Guidance and Counseling systemically, addressing the social, emotional, and academic needs of every student.

Member Nunez expressed concerns that students who want to go to college should be prepared to go to college and those that don't should have alternatives. He stated that every Freshman should have an educational plan and was glad to see the MESA program at Hoover High School and feels they need to have those types of programs in all the schools. He questioned why they don't see the Career guidance staff working with the counselors, there needs to be a tie-in between the staff.

Member Mills stated the need for alternatives for those students who do not wish to go to college. And for those students who are college bound need to have that one-on-one counseling earlier than their senior year, as one student expressed at the Student Advisory Board Meeting in regards to counseling.

Associate Superintendent Marinovich stated that the Career Technical Education program for grades 7 through 12 will be presented to the Board in late summer or early fall.

Member Ryan commented on the commitment in 2006 of more counselors and although there is more work to be done, she has seen an improvement and is pleased with the progress.

Member Asadoorian commented that due to budget constraints it's a shame that the student-counselor ratio couldn't be lower. She is glad to see a strive towards consistency of services in all schools, so that all students are receiving the same information and questioned what occurs in the 4-year plan?

Coordinator Juarez stated that the counselor determines the student's interest and meets with the student at least once a year.

Student Member Vasquez commented that her counselor didn't call her in until her senior year and that most of the time a student has to request to meet with a counselor. She also has concerns with the shifting towards small learning communities in 5 different categories. She looked at the categories and none were of interest to her. She feels the District should seek the interests of the students since they will be the ones forced into these categories.

Member Johnson appreciated the fact that the ratio has decreased, but there is a great need to lower it even more. Students need to see what's out there for them; they need to be engaged into

the real world.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued

B-7, 7 – 12 Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program – continued

Member Nunez stated the need to have uniformity and that the counselor should know their students and know how to serve them each following year to provide the students with the information they need.

Associate Superintendent Marinovich stated that through the AIS system, the counselor can view what the conversation from the previous meeting.

The following individual addressed the board with his thoughts regarding this item:

- Jose Castro stated that he feels there will be more students failing, unless the District gets more counselors. He questioned who will be monitoring the counselors to ensure that they will be getting results.

President Vang commented that he is glad to see that they are focusing in different areas to meet the needs of our students and thanked the Secondary staff for their presentation.

B-8, Legislative Platform for 2008/09

APPROVED, as recommended, the Legislative Platform. School Services of California representatives have been working with the Legislative Committee on drafting a platform for Fresno Unified School District. The Legislative Platform will include input from School Services of California and the District's Legislative Committee from the February 2008 and April 2008 meeting. The platform language will be provided after the April 2008 Legislative Committee meeting. Board Policy 2231 states that the district shall take an active approach to the legislative process, developing responses to legislation affecting education after it has been introduced and initiating legislation when it is deemed necessary to more effectively achieve the mission of the district.

Administrator Canfield presented the Legislative Platform for 2008/09 with an overview that included: 1) the purpose of the Legislative Committee, 2) the Report out on Bills supported by the Legislative committee, 3) the State Legislative Timeline, 4) the Legislative Platform and 5) Board Discussion and Approval of the Legislative Platform.

Member Mills stated that she supports Option B and requested that the legislative committee include into the platform the air quality issue in the San Joaquin Valley.

Member Ryan stated that on air quality, there are many things that affect students on school days and the Legislative Platform needs to be focused on student achievement. She stated that she supported Option B without the addition of air quality.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA – continued**B-8, Legislative Platform for 2008/09 – continued**

Member Nunez stated that air quality is important for the District and feels they need to address the issue head on.

President Vang stated that although he concurs with Members Mills and Nunez, he feels that the air quality issue should be addressed as a separate item, and not part of the Legislative Platform.

Member Ryan moved to adopt Option B as is, seconded by Member Asadoorian, which carried a 7-0-2 vote *with Member Davis and Student Member Curry absent.*

B-9, Change of Board Meetings Dates for the Month of June

APPROVED, as recommended, the change in Board Meeting dates from June 11 and 25, 2008 to June 4 and 18, 2008 – new dates.

Acting Superintendent Quinto provided the Board members with reasons to the change in Board meeting dates.

Member Asadoorian moved for approval, seconded by Member Mills, which carried a 7-0-2 vote *with Member Davis and Student Member Curry absent.*

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS**C-10, School Assistance and Intervention Team (SAIT) Progress Reports for Pyle and Slater Elementary Schools, Prepared by Action Learning Systems (ALS) – SAIT Provider**

RECEIVED the School Assistance and Intervention Team (SAIT) Progress reports for Slater and Pyle Elementary Schools. The report submitted for Slater is Progress Report Four and for Pyle it is Progress Report Seven. A requirement of the SAIT process is to provide school improvement progress reports to the local Board after each monitoring visit.

As per Legal Counsel deGoede, the following email from Mr. Joe Barron was received by the Board of Education and entered into record.

*President Vang, Members of the Board, Superintendent Hanson,
I regret that I am unable to speak to you in person this evening, but I have been overcome by illness, and it is highly recommended that I get some rest.*

I wish to speak tonight on the issue of April being autism Awareness Month. It was my sincerest hope to do a presentation to the board on some facts, figures, and my personal observations of how the district has moved over the last four years in regards to providing services for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

As per Legal Counsel deGoede, the following email from Mr. Joe Barron was received by the Board of Education and entered into record – continued

Since 2000, the number of children serviced by Fresno Unified has grown from 61 students in SY 2000-2001, to 247 as reported to the Department of Education in SY 2006-2007 the math is crude but remarkable showing a 304% growth in the particular population. In reviewing the data for county and the state, I have found the trend concerning, but not unexpected. The county growth trend has reflected a growth of 240%, and statewide the average drops to 182%.

The data reflects that clearly we are capable of outpacing the county and the state ins some things.

Now what can we expect for the future. The department of Special Education through reviews, survey, and a variety of task forces, has engaged in an effort to structure, assess, and allocate critical areas of need when it comes to the servicing of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. While the district possesses the will, there is still a way to go in regards to staffing, and how the district certifies teachers for the purpose of working with this population.

To this end, I would like to thank this Superintendent, Ms. Cyndy Quintana, Ms. Tangee Pinheiro, Ms. Peri Lynn Turnbull, and Mr. Doug Jones for the opportunity to discuss these issues of staffing, and for looking for “innovative” ways to attack this problem.

I thank you for this opportunity to address you in this manner, and I appreciate your indulgence.

Regards,

*Joe Barron
Chairman, Community Advisory Committee for Special Education
FUSD*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

There was no Board/Superintendent communication.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time, President Vang declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



MICHAEL E. HANSON, Secretary to the
Board of Education