



**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING  
Fresno Unified School District  
DECEMBER 6, 2007**

**Fresno, California  
December 6, 2007**

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 December 6, 2007, there were present Members Asadoorian, Davis, Nunez, Ryan, Vang, and President Mills. Also present was Superintendent Hanson.

President Mills convened the meeting at 8:05 a.m. in the Board Room with consultant Sarah Glover from the Center for Reform of Schools Systems.

**Staff Present**

Chief Information Officer Quinto, Associate Superintendents Hauser, Tucker, Chief Technology Officer Madden, and Executive Director Harris.

During the two day site visit with the Center for Reform of School Systems (CRSS), the Board of Education and Administration Team **REVIEWED/DISCUSSED** items listed below.

**Review of board meetings:**

- Promote more dialogue at workshops
- Reading prior to workshops
- Define scope of workshops ahead of time
- Learn how to bring an out-of-control meeting under control

**Review of Management Oversight workshops:**

Quality of Information:

- Good focus and stick to the point
- Organized and thoughtful
- Build understanding

Right level of information:

- Broken down into elements – very helpful
- Helps them see the high level
- Provide good understanding of the whole system

**Review of Management Oversight workshops:**

Address impact on student learning

- “Seeing is believing” – referencing the technology visit

Do the presentations and include recommendations for change

Invite the community

- It is a good thing to bring in other staff from the department

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

President Mills RECESSED for a BREAK at 10:15 a.m. and RECONVENED at 10:30 a.m.

**Review of communications:**

Established bullet points to summarize core beliefs:

- Students learning
- Teachers teaching
- Leaders leading
- Safe schools
- School is a great place to be

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

President Mills RECESSED for a LUNCH at 11:30 a.m. and RECONVENED at 12:00 p.m.

**Review of draft Accountability reform policy**

They like:

- Framing explains things well
- Clear language
- Good definitions, especially for support
- Make clear that all adults are responsible for student success
- Core values come through. There is a high degree of consistency with other policies.
- Helpful to spell things out clearly

Questions /concerns:

- Why earn empowerment only after three years?
- Be clear that participation doesn't lead to empowerment
- Any thought on the rating system?
- What rating generates what level of support?
- Have to make sure they don't forget the high performers
- Will they be ready to do progress reports in 08-09?
- Huge questions around how they communicate this and its intent

## Ideas:

- School rating could include 5 categories – addressing each of 5 core beliefs
  - Allows for targeting interventions based on performance in each category and avoiding “one size fits all”
- Align the accountability system with standards for teachers and leaders
- Be sharp and clear about how to provide assistance
- Three levels of classification might be enough

## Next steps:

- Vincent to update draft based on this conversation
- Sub-committee to review revised draft week of Jan 6
- Revised draft to go into BC
- Submit to CRSS Jan 21
- Review at Jan 23 board meeting
- Peri Lyn to draft outreach plan

President Mills RECESSED for a BREAK at 2:00 p.m. and RECONVENED at 2:15 p.m.

**Professional Learning reform policy:**

## They like:

- Articulates well with previously defined scope
- Good focus on continuous improvement
- Links to other policies
- Not just about teachers

## Questions /concerns:

- Use of word “proficiency” may not be great – ties to state testing language
- Why mention local universities particularly when identify importance of stakeholders?
- Needs clarity of timeline and focus of board follow-up
- Need to make sure people realize this is an investment in our people
- Goal is for this to impact retention and recruitment
- Update the last paragraph on pg.1 to reflect “challenges...our students, our teachers”

## Next steps:

- Sub-committee to meet in December to update draft based on this discussion
- Revised draft
- Submit revised draft to CRSS by January 21
- Revised draft and submit for revision at the January 23 board meeting
- Executive cabinet will discuss launch

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

**Unscheduled Oral Communication**

There were no speakers.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 P.M.**

With no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time, President Mills declared the meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.



MICHAEL E. HANSON, SECRETARY to the  
Board of Education