

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

No comments received for the Consent Agenda.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Samantha Ceja – Voicemail Transcribed

Hello, my name is Samantha Ceja, an alumni of FUSD, and I will be commenting on the contract with Fresno PD that FUSD will be deciding on to keep or not. I think it's really important that we stay away from funding the police, especially on our school campuses. I think it's very important to instead fund mental health services and the police on campus they really instill fear in many students and especially with everything going on in America right now I think it's important to foster a community of safety and trust and I believe that the police don't really go along with those guidelines and I as an FUSD alumni I have been harassed by a cop before for being in my own car and I felt really unsafe on campus and I think that shouldn't be happening to any other students and so I think we should fund care and not the police. Thank you.

2. Holly Hiatt

As a student who attended school in the Central Valley throughout my whole adolescent years until I graduated in 2018, my campuses were police free. There was no need for any armed authority, and I am confident that the presence of one would have created a much more hostile environment, one not at all conducive to growth let alone learning. To summarize an educator in FUSD shared, safety on campus is created within relationships of trust, open communication, and support. Funding for school programs to actually support students should be made available from funding now going to terrorize students at schools with police. #FUNDCARENOCOPS

3. Kadee Hiatt

Hello, my name is Kadee Hiatt and I am a recent graduate of the class of 2020.

My experience of having the police on campus was not a positive one. Friends of mine that were of color experienced intimidation from officers on campus that myself and other white classmates never experienced. I personally experienced anxiety around the officers on campus and found myself uneasy whenever they were around. I urge you to not renew the contracts and instead invest other methods of safety on campus that would deal with mental health and prevention against dangerous situations.

I also believe that it would help students of color feel safer and more secure on campus especially in light of the many recent officer involved shootings of people of color.

Again, I urge you to NOT renew the contracts.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

4. Lani Duarte - Voicemail Transcribed

Hi, my name is Lani Duarte and I am pleading with the Fresno Unified School District to keep their contracts with Fresno PD. First of all I'd like to state I am confused as to why we are contemplating keeping officers off of campus but we have campus security, both are there to serve the same purpose and that is not to just protect teachers from students but vice versa. To protect students from teachers and in addition, protect students from other students. Unfortunately, we humans have not made our world a Utopia due to our own weak flesh, we lose our tempers, we sin against each other each and every day and will do so for the rest of our lives as a result of our imperfections. Therefore, we can not rely on trust as we can only trust each other to a certain extent. Believe me, I would love for us to get along and talk our problems through but that is not always the case. For instance, at my school fights occur and our one police officer along with campus security was there to break up the fight in the proper manner. At my school, I have never seen a cop be a threat to a student. It is only at other schools have I heard the students be a threat to the cops. The officer's purpose is to protect not threaten and our school police officers have and will always do just that. School is not as safe as it used to be, and we need all the protection we can get from outside threats or from each other. We need our officers for they are our protection.

5. Vanessa Romero

As a former student I'm very aware that most students would feel safer without police at their campus. Fresno unified is made up of diverse students that cannot flourish or be completely happy in schools that have police. Police commit violent acts against our communities too often to feel safe around them.

6. Christy Lind – Voicemail Transcribed

Hi, my name is Christy and I have some comments not about an agenda item but just about the subject teacher leveling. I'm a teacher here in Fresno Unified, I just wanted to comment on the overage process. We had to overage a wonderful teacher this year even though our four kindergarten classes are sitting at twenty-seven students and we've had a new student enroll almost every day through last week. I understand the ratios and the number process, but it seems to me we keep acknowledging that this is an unprecedented year and the future is unknown. Maybe there should be some consideration that we don't know what the rest of year holds, and we should let teachers stay where they are. Enrollment numbers may shift when we go back in person and teachers have already poured their hearts, time, and tears into these first four weeks of school to prepare for distance learning. Relationships are so hard to build virtually, and these teachers have laid foundations in these first few weeks that the district widely suggested we take time to build connections with families. It seems wrong to rip teachers from school sites and their students at this time. Thank you for your time.

7. David Paredes – Voicemail Transcribed

Hi, my name is David Paredes. I am a resident in the City of Fresno, in FUSD I'm in area five. I'm leaving a public comment in regards to the meeting taking place tomorrow, in which the school board will be deciding whether to keep the contract with the Police Department. I am for breaking

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

off this contract with Fresno PD. So, I fully encourage the school board to vote this way. I believe Police Officers do not belong at schools and we could be putting our resources and energy into things that will help the well-being and nurture education for our youth. Thank you so much, bye bye.

8. Ernesto Saavedra

Please "read the room". "Schools" are places for learning and growing. An opportunity to foster creative, critical thought and practice. Unfortunately, the opposite is the reality. Schools often times are microcosms of the greater carceral society, operating under the guise of "education" when the only thing youth are being taught is how to "fall in line". A perfect example of this is police presence on school campuses, in particular campuses with a high population of low income, Black, Indigenous and youth of color.

Police presence on campus is counterintuitive to the very nature of a space of caring and learning. Unless, of course, you're goal is to create a space of negativity, fear and trauma then having police on campus makes sense because that's all they bring to our communities already. Equating "police" with "safety" is double speak because they inherently and by design do the opposite. Often times they are the orchestrators of pushing our youth out of schools instead of investing in restorative justice practices and curriculum.

As someone who grew up in the Fresno Unified school system, police free schools is long overdue and now is the time to be bold and work with community to create something new and be an example for other school districts.

9. Alonso Santos-Gonzalez

Hello, I am a graduate of the Fresno Unified School system and I believe that SROs should not be on our campuses. The school-to-prison pipeline is a major issue in our education system and SROs play a major role in funneling our FUSD students of color into the juvenile court system. Instead, FUSD needs to divert that money to invest in Mental Health services for our youth. Many of the issues that result in arrests, such as behavioral problems and substance use, stem from mental health conditions, and these conditions need to be addressed with more school therapists as well as community services-especially in low-income FUSD schools/communities. Instead of SROs, we need more restorative justice measures that get to the root of disputes between students and shift away from punishment and towards reconciliation. Please end the contract with SROs and prioritize the needs of our students, not the punishment. Thank you, Alonso Santos-Gonzalez,

10. Gino Hernandez

Having probation officers and PD on school campuses has absolutely no effect in producing any reform of diligence or quote on quote "disciplinary" factors. The fact is substantial in that police do not display anything that is worth acknowledging. Police use unnecessary forms of intimidation tactics on young children and the youth on campuses, and there needs to be more changes and efforts in decolonizing education, and creating safe and better outreach programs for kids and teens. They're under enough pressure as it is, and police only add to the excessive agitation that

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

face kids and teens today. Invest in better after school programs, on-campus mental health programs, better networking communicative programs between teachers and their students. Cops in this town DO NOT need any more funds from the city or the state. It is absolutely abhorrent and ridiculous with the amount of funding that is placed into the Fresno PD, and they certainly do not need it. Schools must cut off contracts with Fresno PD. Safer schools means no police on campuses.

11. Carrie Ayala

Please stop hurting students by policing them on campus. They need support, not punishment. Invest in youth, fund programs that help youth grow. Defund the police, end the contract now.

12. Haley Wolfe

I am writing to encourage Fresno Unified to divest from the Fresno PD and keep police officers out of schools. Police pose a threat to student safety, particularly to Black and Latino students. Instead of school resource officers, I encourage hiring more counselors and focus on student's mental health and well being instead of punishment. Haley Wolfe, Fresno, 93727.

13. Rashawn Porter

I grew up an African American minority in a prominently white school ecosystem. While I was a good kid, and we'll liked by the faculty of my elementary school, I still recall occasions where I was alone with an officer and how scared and intimidated I was. I understand the need to have protection for the children and staff to promote a safe learning environment, and that many children do not feel safe in the presence of an officer is proof enough that a change is required.

14. Elisabeth Robledo

Programs which do support community safety and policing While our community acknowledges the role of law enforcement, as concerned residents, active voters, parents, and grandparents alike, and working professionals within the community; it is unconscionable more than half of our city's collective budget is dedicated to commitment with law enforcement, as our parks, healthcare and educational resources are slashed, defunded, and residents are left to languish. 53% of our earned tax revenue is an incredible investment, as well as a testimony to our commitment to a safe and secure community. Unfortunately however, for many of our residents of color, friends, loved ones and neighbors, and students, it is proof of something far more unsettling.

Since 2017, law enforcement has been ordered to pay settlements to families of deceased, as well as their victims of unlawful behavior by officers, in the amount of over \$22 million dollars. With this current and sizable contribution of tax payer dollars, we live in one of the poorest, polluted, and marginalized cities in the country. Proof a large budget-in the instance of law enforcement, is a poor investment for leadership, folks and communities members who wish to have a positive impact on the personal well being of residents. One way to stand with the community to promote safer communities as a whole is to support legislation such as H.R.7120, to address malfeasance;

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

penned by Representative Karen Bass of California, as a more effective use of our collective time and resources. Also, of great concern is **(250-word limit reached)**.

15. Evelyn Porter

Students deserve more support and less intense surveillance. The truth is that as a person of color, we have historically and presently never been welcomed by police. As a teacher and mother to a black child, I beg you to consider the amount of resources Fresno Unified could offer students over harmful policing practices. Fresno Unified has done a great job providing a wide diverse student body, culturally competent teachers. Now I ask that you back these teachers by giving them the environments that match this level of competence. I will be returning from South Louisiana this summer after serving students that have not been provided an equitable education compared to students in Fresno. I have been a witness to the school to prison pipeline, it comes to life when my 9 year old students see their cousins in the high school being handcuffed. They fear the presence of ICE agents, SRO's, Deputies, and Sheriffs because the reality is that this Fall they questioned their safety in a place where I am supposed to keep them comfortable. Underaged students in Louisiana, students walking home down Blackstone in Fresno, and everywhere around this country deserve better. They deserve Police Free Schools! Evelyn Porter, TFA SLA Corpmember, Fresno State Alumni.

16. Yenifer Gallegos-Mejia

Hello Fresno Unified School District,

I want to take this time to formally beg you to invest in counselors not cops and help improve the Well-being of our students who are in desperate need of support not punishments. Provide more socioemotional support and partner with local organizations to provide more opportunities. Resource officers are not resources that students need, they traumatize them and put them in a tense environment. Protect, serve, and invest in our students.

17. Faith Dillard

Invest in the schools, invest in the students, invest in their futures, not the police. Students need resources, they need more mental health services, not police officers.

18. Marisa Moraza

Dear Board President Thomas and Board Trustees,

During these unprecedented times it is imperative that we meet the moment and fund programs and services that will directly support our students and families. As a community member, I urge you to reallocate the nearly \$3million in contracts with the Fresno Police Department to fund mental health services (clinical and non-clinical), adequate translation services and communication services, healing centered programming, and comprehensive wellness centers. If you are a district that truly centers equity, you must center the voices and needs of the students and families that have been most affected by systems failures and systemic racism. I urge you to end the SRO and SNRO contracts with the Fresno Police Department and invest in Police Free Schools. It is time to fund Fresno's future by investing in youth and their wellbeing.

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

19. Nancy Ayala

I live in Fresno at Lincoln and Wishon Avenues. I think Fresno Unified should stop their contract with the Fresno PD.

20. Carolina Garza De Luna

We the people dedicated to a future of peace and reconciliation; one where a paradigm shift of how we interact with youth and conflict is as important as we interact with peers and adults. We have the power to reimagine how we navigate conflict and how we deescalate and prevent as professionals. Far too often discipline is forceful and life altering when interacting with police. I have experienced this first hand despite being an outstanding student citizen and graduated with the highest leadership honors. I also saw it as a professional on school campuses; where adults hold an shockingly ignorant culture when it comes to discussing and handling discipline. We have to make things right for our youth; it is not a question as to how faculty feel about officers on campus neither is it about what possible good programs or outcomes this officer has; we must remove the presence of officers and reallocate resources for students and professionals trained for youth progress and access to resources. The nation calls for new models. We Fresno do too!
Carolina Garza De Luna, FRESNO unified parent.

21. John Ayala

Dear FUSD School Board, Administration, and commission,

Please consider removing police from our schools and re-allocating resources to programs which have proven to improve graduation rates and school climate while reducing crime. The one million dollar budget for police could fund mental health services, community engagement, arts, transportation to special events and much more.

While some believe police presence provides necessary security and helps students feel safe, in many cases it has been shown to have the opposite effect.

Thank you for considering my comments. John Ayala.

22. Michael Gonzalez

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am submitting this public comment urging Fresno Unified to end contracts with the Fresno Police Department and to instead invest in services and programs that support the growth and wellbeing of students. Michael Gonzalez, Fresno resident.

23. Nishea Balajadia

To Fresno Unified School District -

As a parent to a student of Fresno High School, I am in constant fear of the police on campus. As a Black student, who is on her side when the police are targeting her? Who polices the police on campus?

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

With the racial discrimination that is prevalent in Fresno PD, along with the shoot first never ask questions mentality of the force, how do you determine that our kids are safe while police are on campus? They aren't.

CSOs have got to go. The school to prison pipeline HAS to end. You need to end all police presence in all of Fresno Unified Schools.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-14, DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2019/20 Unaudited Actual Financial Report, 2019/20 Year-End Budget Revision and 2020/21 Gann Limit

No comments received for this Agenda Item.

B-15, HOLD Public Hearing, PRESENT and DISCUSS Fresno Unified School District's Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

No comments received for this Agenda Item.

B-16, PRESENT and DISCUSS Fresno Unified School District's Strategic Plan Development

No comments received for this Agenda Item.