

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number EA-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: September 11, 2020

Prepared by: Kristi Imber-Olivares, Director in Equity and Access

Phone Number: 457-3896

Cabinet Approval:

Regarding: Student Voice Collaborative

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding our newly formed Student Voice Collaborative. To further address the climate/culture of our district, a collaborative team of African American Academic Acceleration, Communications, English Learner Services, Equity and Access, Goal 2, Prevention and Intervention, Special Education, and State and Federal have begun a Student Voice Collaborative advance equity in our schools by elevating students' voices to create change and foster school site partnerships with students at the forefront. This collaborative aims to have representation across diverse student groups, with a particular focus on increasing student voice among historically underrepresented and marginalized groups to ensure all student groups have a voice and an opportunity to be heard.

Our collaborative effort will give students an opportunity to engage in the following ways:

- Meet with Superintendent Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. over five scheduled meetings throughout the 2020/21 academic year.
- Present to the Board of Trustees at regularly scheduled Board meetings.
- Submit written updates of their efforts and progress through scheduled Board Communications.

The Student Voice Collaborative will also give departments the opportunity to align resources and efforts as they continue to advise diverse student groups through their respective departments. We are not only helping students advocate for student-driven solutions, but this collaborative also prepares them to become lifelong agents of social change.

Included with this communication is a timeline of the scheduled meetings with Superintendent Robert G. Nelson Ed.D., presentations to the Board of Trustees, the Board Communications for the 2020/21 Academic Year and descriptions of the various student voice groups.

If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact Lindsay Sanders at 457-3471.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 09/11/2020



Student Voice Collaborative

Superintendent, Board Meetings & Board Communication Schedule

| Date | Meeting |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| August 19, 2020 | Dialogue with Superintendent Nelson |
| August 26, 2020 | Board Meeting |
| September 11, 2020 | Board Communication |
| October 12, 2020 | Dialogue with Superintendent Nelson |
| October 21, 2020 | Board Meeting |
| October 30, 2020 | Board Communication |
| December 7, 2020 | Dialogue with Superintendent Nelson |
| December 16, 2020 | Board Meeting |
| January 29, 2021 | Board Communication |
| February 10, 2021 | Dialogue with Superintendent Nelson |
| February 17, 2021 | Board Meeting |
| March 26, 2021 | Board Communication |
| April 14, 2021 | Dialogue with Superintendent Nelson |
| April 21, 2021 | Board Meeting |
| June 1, 2021 | Dialogue with Superintendent Nelson |
| June 2, 2021 | Board Meeting |
| June 18, 2021 | Board Communication |



Fresno Unified School District

2020-2021 Student Voice Collaborative

Student Groups



Building and sustaining student voice is essential to creating a culture that promotes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Student voice supports the DEI framework as it is aligned to Culturally Responsive Practices, Multicultural Education, and Social Action.

Captured below are planned district focused student groups for the 2020-2021 school year as part of our efforts to ensure student voice is a part of decision making for the Superintendent, the Board, and district departments. Groups identified in *italics* are still being established.

| Student Voice Group | Targeted Student Audience | Number of Students | Targeted Schools | Objectives | Contact Department and Leads |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| A4 Student Voice | African American High School Students (no selection criteria for participation) | To Be Recruited-- 30 Students | All High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in learning around leadership and design thinking Provide input about students' lived experiences, with a particular focus on academics (Student Led) Engage in learning around communication and collaboration before committing to an action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Green |
| BSU | African American Middle and High Schools Students (no selection criteria for participation) | Recruited every year through club sign-ups | All High Schools, Middle Schools, and 5 Elementary Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in learning around leadership Engage in learning about cultural history Community service and academics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa Nichols |
| Communication Advisory Student Group | High School Students (application process) | To Be Recruited— 14-20 Students | All High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about the education system in FUSD and its impact on students Assess the culture and climate of FUSD from a student perspective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikki Henry |



Fresno Unified School District 2020-2021 Student Voice Collaborative Student Groups



| Student Voice Group | Targeted Student Audience | Number of Students | Targeted Schools | Objectives | Contact Department and Leads |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, create, and facilitate projects that promote change and strengthen school connectedness Explore outlets to implement communication strategies to address the needs and wants of the student body | |
| English Learner Student Advisory Council | <i>EL Students from various categories across all seven regions (Long-term ELs, Redesignated ELs, Newcomer ELs, Dual Immersion ELs from Spanish and Hmong DI)</i> | <i>28-30 Students</i> | <i>Intermediate, middle, and high school EL and RFEP students</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Engage in deeper learning about various EL populations in FUSD</i> <i>Communicate to EL students about available services and programs in FUSD</i> <i>Determine how services and programs have impacted EL student lives and educational experiences</i> <i>Identify needs of EL students as they define them and determine how department goals and actions support their needs</i> <i>Empower EL students to hone their leadership and advocacy skills toward improving support of their linguistic and academic needs</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Carol Padilla-Shaath</i> <i>Jazmin Lujan</i> |



Fresno Unified School District

2020-2021 Student Voice Collaborative

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| Foster Youth Advisory Council/Club | Foster Youth Students in High School | Recruited by Project ACCESS Clinical School Social Workers and student's willingness to participate/ sign-up | Comprehensive High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in learning around leadership skills, advocacy, and educational rights for foster youth Create opportunities for foster youth to be connected, empowered, and engaged in creating a supportive environment for youth experiencing common struggles in the foster care system Collaborate with site administrators and students to allow student voice to inform and increase school connectedness and positive school culture for foster youth students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tumani Heights |



Fresno Unified School District 2020-2021 Student Voice Collaborative Student Groups



| Student Voice Group | Targeted Student Audience | Number of Students | Targeted Schools | Objectives | Contact Department and Leads |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Fresno Unified GSA Youth Voice Committee | Genders and Sexualities Alliances (GSA) Students High School Middle School | District Committee: 2 students per site that represent their own school site Superintendent Committee: 2 students that represent whole/larger committee with 2 back up students | High School Sites with Active GSA Clubs Middle School Sites with Active Clubs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and share needs of LGBTQ+ Youth and Ally Students to continue to create inclusive spaces where students are seen, safe, supported and empowered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erica Hasenbeck Suzi Wallace In Partnership with GSA Advisors |
| Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Student Advisory Committee | High School Students (no selection criteria for participation) | 80 from each site (13 sites) To be Recruited— unlimited participation | All traditional and Alternative Ed High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and develop opportunities for diverse student perspectives to provide feedback and input towards equitable utilization of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) resources with a focus on overcoming barriers for students living in disadvantaged circumstances in order to improve student outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miguel Vega |



Fresno Unified School District

2020-2021 Student Voice Collaborative

Student Groups



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| Principal Action Committee (planning phase) | <p>Intersection of members of the student voice groups plus principal discretion</p> <p>Possibility of Presidents of the Clubs, Representatives of Groups (no selection criteria for participation)</p> | 20 to 40 Students per site | All High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a space for all student voice group members on a site to collaborate and advocate Meet with site decision-makers and flatten the hierarchy so that student voice translates to site action Foster a culture of teamwork within and between student groups on campus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus Culture Manager (DO) Principal and/or Designee - Must be a site Decision-Maker (Site) |
| Race and Social Actions Student Advisory Council | High School Students (no selection criteria for participation) | To be Recruited—15-17 students | All High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in learning around Race and Social Action and Cultural Proficiency Develop objectives for the site council Develop a plan for student recruitment and plan for social action at the site Participate in Superintendent and Board feedback Mission statement development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edgar Pelayo Lisa Nichols Teresa Zamora |



Fresno Unified School District 2020-2021 Student Voice Collaborative Student Groups



| Student Voice Group | Targeted Student Audience | Number of Students | Targeted Schools | Objectives | Contact Department and Leads |
|---|--|---|------------------|--|---|
| Race and Social Action Student Council | High School Students (no selection criteria for participation) | To be Recruited—unlimited participation | All High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in learning around Race and Social Action and Cultural Proficiency Develop and implement a plan for social action to support a culture focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edgar Pelayo Lisa Nichols Teresa Zamora |
| SAB | High School Students (selected at the school site with various criteria) | 2-3 Per School Site | All High Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about policy and procedures of the board Engage in asking questions around policy and governance Present updates on a rotation to board Provide input to the Board on Agenda Items affecting students and sites Collaborate with site leadership and students to initiate policy change and school culture Evaluate Site/District/Community needs and develop an annual | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus Culture Manager (DO) Campus Culture Director (Site) |



Fresno Unified School District

2020-2021 Student Voice Collaborative

Student Groups



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| | | | | unification project to meet a need | |
| SAB Board Representatives | High School Students (elected from SAB) | 2 Students | Elected High School Students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in board meetings through the pulling of agenda items and engaging in board discussions Present the Student Board Member Communication at each Board Meeting Record advisory votes on all Board Action Items Communicate with staff on Student Advisory Board (SAB) questions Report back to SAB and school sites on Board business and discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus Culture Manager (DO) No Site Leads |
| Special Education Advisory Committee | <i>Students representatives from 7 regions (siblings of students with disabilities, student leaders, students with visible and invisible disabilities)</i> | <i>30 students</i> | <i>All High Schools</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Engage students in discussions around inclusive practices (How are we doing?)</i> <i>Develop and plan a campaign to educate their peers</i> <i>Engage students in deeper learning and understanding of visible and invisible disabilities</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dr. Ebony Hailey</i> <i>Jeanne Butler</i> |