



AGENDA

Meeting of the Board of Directors University High School Board Meeting Thursday, February 5, 2026

If you need special assistance to access the meeting room or to otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Head of School's Office at (559) 278-8263. Notification at least 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable UHS to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the Board meeting. (The UHS Board of Directors is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act).

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5:00 PM OPEN SESSION Room 108

MEMBERS PRESENT: Xuanning Fu (Chair), Dominic Dizon (Secretary), Rajee Amarasinghe (Treasurer), Saul Jimenez-Sandoval, and Lori Hamada

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brent Woodward (Vice Chair), Nichole Walsh

1. Call to Order/Recognize Visitors

The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm by Dr. Xuanning Fu, Chair.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously **APPROVED** as submitted.

Jimenez-Sandoval - motion, Amarasinghe - second

3. Public Comment

Public comment on any item of interest to the public that is within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard. At this time, anyone present may speak for up to three minutes. Those who wish to speak may **voluntarily** sign in on the Sign-In sheet.

There were no visitors present.

4. Student Presentation: Mock Trial Team w/ Mr. Bell and Mrs. Ibrahim

Mr. Bell and Mrs. Ibrahim brought four students to present about their experience with Mock Trial this year. The team finished in 6th place this year. One school forfeited against UHS, and that influenced the final standings. The UHS team had many underclassmen and for many, this was their first time competing. UHS does have an attorney coach, but UHS students write their own scripts so that they gain experience and know the case better.

5. Executive Reports

a. **Student Report** - ASB President Leo Jimesanagnos shared various events from January, including the Winter Intersession and a successful Winter Formal. Current and upcoming events include volleyball season, Aca Dec Super Quiz and County competition this Saturday, and application period ending on Friday. He finished by saying that the "Winter Formal Flu" is going around campus, and many students have been out sick.

b. **Superintendent Report** - Superintendent Hickman shared the enrollment numbers: 9th/134, 10th/126, 11th/114, 12th/ 116 = 490. Next year's application period ends on Friday, Feb. 6 at 5:00pm. As of today, we have received 212 applications; UHS takes 135 freshmen a year. Phoenix Alliance, UHS parent group, has its annual fundraiser, the Phoenix Phling, coming up on Saturday, March 14; cost is \$85 a person.



Superintendent Hickman also reported on an upcoming agreement with UC Merced that will guarantee automatic admission for UHS students, including the BSMD program. They will also receive a \$3000 a year stipend. If a student applies for the BSMD program, they do not have to apply for medical school or take the MCATs. The program is four years of a bachelor's degree, four years of medical school, and residency will be at UCSF Fresno.

Superintendent Hickman shared awards that UHS has received: CV LUX Magazine "Hidden Gem" Award; program was on January 23. AP Honor Roll Silver Award. To qualify for the 2025 AP Honor Roll, schools must meet or exceed the criteria for a given recognition level for all three metrics (65% of seniors to experience 1 AP course before graduating, 35% of seniors to earn college credit by receiving an AP exam score of 3 or higher; 10% of seniors to take a total of 5 AP's, with at least 1 taken in 9th or 10th grade.)

Lastly, Superintendent Hickman shared an update regarding the Scuba trip to Belize in May. There are 31 students and families attending and participants will receive their open water certificate after testing with the resort. There is a potential program addition with a continuing education opportunity with the University of Belize (UB). UB will offer students to stay an additional week in Belize at the Calabash Reef under the direction of the UB faculty. Our goal is for students to stay an additional week in order to do research and gain knowledge for their Science Fair packets. Our teacher, Ms. Dowis, would stay on to supervise students; students would pay for this opportunity on their own.

c. **Budget Report** - CFO Bryson presented the current budget for the month and the 5-year budget. She shared that the California Governor underassessed revenues, so there is \$42 billion difference. One time LREBG money will be double the amount that we received last year. There is another grant called the Student Success and Professional Development Block Grant will be about \$512 per student ADA; still waiting for approval. COLA moved from 3.07% to 2.4%. UHS is in good shape with a large ending balance.

6. Consent Agenda

All consent agenda items are considered routine by the Board of Governors and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board member or citizen so requests, in which event, the item(s) will be considered following approval of the Consent Agenda.

- a. Approve the Minutes of December 10, 2025 Meeting
- b. Approval of Total Payments Report
- c. Consolidated Application

The consent agenda was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.
Hamada - motion, Amarasinghe - second

7. Discussion Items (Including Potential Action Items)

- a. **Audit Report (voting item/Bryson)** - There were no findings on the audit report. UHS has a new auditor and he has been good to work with.

The UHS audit report for 2024-25 was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.

Amarasinghe - motion, Jimenez-Sandoval - second

- b. **Declaration of Need, updated form (voting item/Hickman)** - This form is needed when a school hires a certificated employee without a full credential. UHS is hiring a Special Education Resource Teacher that has a moderate/severe credential; UHS only offers a mild/moderate program. This form allows for UHS to hire the teacher on a SELAP (Special Education Limited Assignment Permit) for a year while the teacher works on the appropriate credential.



The Declaration of Need form was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.
Dizon - moved, Amarasinghe - second

- c. **Immigration Policy updates (voting item/Hickman)** - Superintendent Hickman explained that the current Immigration plan needed some minor updates to be consistent with state laws, including adding verbiage for AB495. She also shared the various signs that are posted and sent out to families, along with the step by step Immigration Notification Plan that UHS will follow in the event of Immigration presence on campus. Dr. Jimenez-Sandoval recommended that Superintendent Hickman make contact with the Fresno State administrator for Student Affairs in order to coordinate contact information. The UHS Immigration Policy was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.
Jimenez-Sandoval - motion, Dizon - second
- d. **Safety Plan updates (voting item/Hickman)** - The UHS Safety Plan had already been approved at the August Board meeting, but there were a few updates that needed to be approved. They include: Child Protection and Safety Procedures from SB848 and Procedures for Notification when Immigration Enforcement is Confirmed on the School Site; SB 98: SAFE Act Notification Procedures.
The UHS Safety Plan for 2025-26 was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.
Jimenez-Sandoval - motion, Dizon - second
- e. **LCAP Mid Year update (discussion item/Hickman)** - Superintendent Hickman went through the LCAP Mid Year update data, and explained that this a requirement from CDE to provide an update on the metrics as well as the financials so that the Board and the public are informed about the status halfway through the year. Board member Hamada asked if this report was sent to the parent group. Superintendent Hickman explained that the midyear report does not need approval from stakeholders, but that she would be taking the annual update of the LCAP to the parent group, as well as the staff and our student groups, later in the spring. There was no further discussion.
This was a discussion item, so there was not a vote on this item.
- f. **Ethnic Studies update (discussion item/Hickman)** - Superintendent Hickman reminded the Board that UHS entered into a MOU with the Fresno State Social Studies department last spring in order to pay for the four Ethnic Studies classes that are provided to UHS students (2 classes per semester). UHS is paying \$7465 per class per semester for a total of \$29,860, not including the additional cost for units. The Ethnic Studies mandate (AB101) was written to take effect "upon appropriation" of funding. Ethnic Studies was not funded in the California budget for 2024-25 or for 2025-26; this mandate is considered to be "on hold". Superintendent Hickman has signed the MOU with Fresno State for the 2026-27 year in order to obtain the Ethnic Studies classes. She will bring the issue back to the Board if AB101 is not funded in the future, to discuss if the Board wants to continue to have this class as a graduation requirement. Discussion centered around the importance of having this class regardless of a state requirement.
This was a discussion item, so there was not a vote on this item.
- g. **Other** - There were no additional items added to the agenda.

8. Future Meetings: March 5, April 9, May 7, June TBA

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm. Jimenez-Sandoval - motion, Dizon - second