



BOARD MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors
University High School Meeting
August 7, 2025
Room 108

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).

Public records relating to an open session agenda item of a regular meeting that are distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the UHS Office on the campus of California State University, Fresno, 2611 E. Matoonian Way, M/S UH 134, Fresno, CA, 93740.

3:30 PM Open Session

MEMBERS PRESENT: Xuanning Fu (Chair), Brent Woodward (Vice Chair), Dominic Dizon (Secretary), Rajee Amarasinghe (Treasurer), Nichole Walsh, and Lori Hamada

MEMBERS ABSENT: Saul Jimenez-Sandoval

1. Call to Order/Recognize Visitors

a. Introduce New Staff

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by Dr. Xuanning Fu, Chair. Ms. Hickman, Superintendent/Principal, introduced four new staff members: Mr. Sam Polanco, Vice Principal; Mr. Gerardo Escoto, Social Studies; Mr. Kyle van Loon, Physics; Mr. Nik Ashjian, Development Director.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

Hamada - motion, Amarsinghe - 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.

4. Executive Reports

a. Student Report - There was not a student report at this meeting.

b. Superintendent/Principal (Hickman): Superintendent Hickman shared the school's goals from 2024-25 and explained that all of them had been completed except for one. Completed goals include: successful rechartering with FUSD, implementation of 25th anniversary events, updates on the UHS facility, creation of a pathway with Fresno State for Ethnic Studies, and continuation of outreach/marketing, building the brand of UHS, and mental health services. The one goal that was not reached was to improve Alumni relations and contacts. New goals for 2025-26 include: completing the WASC midyear report, establish a solution for Drama storage, strengthen Alumni relations, continue collaboration with Fresno State for classes, improve student performance on state math assessments, support teachers and staff with professional development in A.I. and emerging educational trends, provide onboarding to new staff (5 new staff members this year); continue with major campus upgrades (e.g., camera system, door locks), and continue with creative marketing to further enhance UHS.

Superintendent Hickman shared the enrollment numbers: 9th/136, 10th/131, 11th/119, 12th/ 121 = 508; the largest number of students UHS has ever had. She also shared annual state testing scores: 97.5% ELA, 75.2% Math, 86.6% Science met/exceeded. Additionally, AP scores show that UHS had a

pass rate of 79%, the highest that UHS has ever scored. She showed the breakdown of each of the tests, highlighting the large growth of Statistics and both Economic exams.

Ms. Michelle Hayden, Math Department Chair, attended the meeting and shared insight and information about the Math Department, including that UHS uses an integrated approach, diagnostic testing for incoming students, the addition of the Integrated Math III class two years ago, etc. There was much discussion about this topic: Board Members wanted to know what interventions are in place to help students (answer: use of IAB's through the state testing system, individual monitoring of grades by teacher, tutoring/individualized tutoring, etc.). Other questions centered around common assessments (answer: yes, all math classes give the same assessments). Suggestions include: building interventions into the school day rather than outside of school, become more data focused, build up endurance and resilience for the state tests, offer extrinsic rewards, and discussion about summer work and if it is effective at all in moving students forward.

Superintendent Hickman also shared the updates that took place in the spring and summer, including new chairs for the downstairs classrooms, new letters on the outside sign, PA system is fixed and working, and two projects in progress are new camera systems (working with Fresno State Police Department) and Drama storage.

- c. **Budget Review (Bryson):** CFO Bryson presented the current budget for the month and the 5-year budget. She explained that our ADA should go up, but we budget conservatively, currently at a projected number of 481.12, but that we will most likely incur more revenue since we have more students than in the past. The total ending fund balance for UHS at the close of the 2024-25 school year is \$6,783,855, which is a very healthy 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 from the June 3, 2025 Meeting
- b. Total Payments Report

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

7. Discussion Items (Including Potential Action Items)

- a. **Unaudited Actuals (voting item/Bryson):** CFO Bryson presented the Unaudited Actuals report that is sent to Fresno Unified; this report includes items through June 30, 2025. Our next annual audit will be in the early fall. The Unaudited Actuals report was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.
Hamada - motion, Amarasinghe - second
- b. **Prop 28 Annual Report (voting item/Bryson):** CFO Bryson presented the Prop 28 Annual Report to the Board, stating that this report goes to the state and it includes the total number of FTE positions (collaborative total) that are paid for with this grant, which is 2.5. UHS added additional music coaches, hours, and stipends for our music department.
The Prop 28 Annual report was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.
Woodward - motion, Hamada - second
- c. **Safety Plan 2025-26 with ICP addition (voting item/Hickman):**
Superintendent Hickman shared the 2025-26 UHS Safety Plan. She pointed out that this year's Safety Plan must include a new requirement, the Instructional Continuity Plan, which is a plan for the school in case there is

ever a need to go fully online again (e.g., like with the 2020 pandemic). Superintendent Hickman stated that this was a collaborative effort to create the ICP; she met with staff, teachers, students, and parents to gain their feedback.

The UHS Safety Plan, including the ICP, was unanimously APPROVED with one data correction (deletion of the word 'crime' which was used twice in a sentence on page 3).

Walsh - motion, Hamada - second

d. UHS Calendar/Graduation adjustment (voting item/Hickman):

Superintendent Hickman explained that Dr. Amy Allen, Fresno State Associate Dean of the Student Involvement, had contacted her to request that UHS change our graduation date. Fresno State has many graduation ceremonies and it is tough to fit them all in two days. Additionally, this year, the UHS ASB President is President Jimenez-Sandoval's son, so he would like to attend. Superintendent Hickman presented the following information:

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Previous Date</u> | <u>New Date</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| Set up @ SRC | Wed May 13 | Tue May 12, 12:30pm |
| UHS Grad practice | Thu May 14 | Wed May 13, 12:30/1:00? 2 hours |
| UHS Baccalaureate | Fri May 15 | Wed May 13, 6:00pm, Concert Hall (we may need help ensuring this location) |
| UHS Graduation | Sat May 16 | Thu May 14, 6:30/7:00pm, 1.5 hours |

The updated calendar for 2025-26, including the following updated dates was unanimously APPROVED as submitted.

Woodward - motion, Amarasinghe - second

e. TAMO Results 2022-23 (discussion item): Superintendent Hickman shared the Teacher Assignment Monitoring Outcomes by Full Time Equivalent report for the 2022-23 school year. There were no questions from the Board about this report; discussion item.

f. Board Training Information (discussion item): The Board was reminded that they must complete their Ethics training by September 14, 2025. Office Manager Deena Klein has already sent an email with the instructions; she will reach out to those that have not completed it.

g. Other: There were no additional items added to the agenda.

8. Closed Session

The Board went into closed session at 5:22pm and returned to open session at 5:50pm. The Board discussed and voted on Superintendent Hickman's evaluation. The synopsis will be emailed to Superintendent Hickman within the next two days.

9. Future Meetings: September 4; October 2; November 6; December 4

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56pm by Dr. Xuanning Fu, Chair.