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**SUPERINTENDENT**

Mao Misty Her

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Judge Houry A. Sanderson  
Civil Grand Jury, County of Fresno  
1100 Van Ness Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93724-0002

Re: Fresno Unified School District's Response to Grand Jury Report  
2024-2025 Report No. 1

Dear Judge Sanderson:

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Board of Trustees for the Fresno Unified School District ("Board" or "Trustees") hereby submits this formal response to the Fresno County Civil Grand Jury Report, 2024-2025 Report No. 1 ("Report").

**OVERVIEW OF DISTRICT RESPONSE**

The Board concurs in the Grand Jury's commitment to ensuring that Board members are familiar with, and trained in, all applicable ethical requirements and Brown Act compliance, especially regarding the confidentiality of closed session information. The Board has duly considered the Grand Jury's findings and recommendation and offers the responses below.

We would like to point out that, as indicated below, the District regularly provides opportunities for Board members to obtain training related to ethics and to learn about their duties and obligations as elected officials. In addition, District staff, in conjunction with the Board, are undertaking the review and revision of several policies to provide greater clarity and accountability for Board members. For example, to enhance Board member accountability we will consider the development of a process whereby the District provides written certification to the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools of Board member compliance.

Further, while we believe guidance provided by District administration for Board members is not necessarily lacking, improvements can always be made in such circumstances. Therefore, we will remain vigilant of the need to keep Board members informed of applicable legal obligations, as well as their functions and duties as Board members.

**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY'S FINDINGS**

**Finding F1.** Presently serving elected school board members were uncertain whether Brown Act/Ethics training was a requirement as a board member.

Response to Finding F1:

To the extent we do not have independent knowledge or information of the scope of board member testimony before the Grand Jury District we partially disagree, in that District staff have regularly worked with Board members as to Brown Act and ethics training requirements.

**Finding F2. Presently serving elected school board members were unaware of the consequences which could arise from violating the Brown Act.**

Response to Finding F2:

To the extent we do not have independent knowledge or information of the scope of board member testimony before the Grand Jury District we partially disagree, in that District staff have regularly worked with Board members as to Brown Act and ethics compliance requirements.

**Finding F3. Brown Act training is among the core topics required in any curriculum to satisfy AB 1234 training.**

Response to Finding F3:

We agree with this finding.

**Finding F4. As per requirements of AB 2158, local school districts are responsible to provide an AB 1234 training curriculum to the elected school board members that includes all core content topics identified in Fair Practices Commission Regulation 18371.**

Response to Finding F4:

We partially disagree. Government Code section 53235 provides that members of a governing board of a school district "...shall receive training in ethics pursuant to this article..." A local agency's only affirmative function is to "...provide information on training available to meet the requirements of this article to its local officials at least once annually." As such, we disagree with to the extent the Finding states that "local school districts are responsible to provide an AB 1234 training curriculum to the elected school board members..."

**Finding F5. Within Fresno County, presently serving elected school board members were receptive to developing an onboard checklist to assist in identifying when state-mandated training requirements are completed by newly elected board members.**

Response to Finding F5:

To the extent we do not have independent knowledge or information of the scope of board member testimony before the Grand Jury District we partially disagree, in that District staff have regularly worked with Board members, particularly new Board members, to provide onboarding information and initial training. However, the District has no objection to developing an onboarding checklist to assist in the process.

**RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation R2: The Fresno Unified School District Board of Education should ensure no later than September 31, 2025, that curricula developed or utilized to comply with AB 1234 training for their elected school board members contain all the core content topics in Fair Political Practices Commission Regulation 18371.**

Response to Recommendation R2:

We accept this recommendation and acknowledge that District staff has been implementing, and will continue to implement the recommendation, as follows. On March 20, 2025 (before issuance of the subject Grand Jury Report), District administration advised all Board members of three training opportunities, which include the core content topics in Fair Political Practices Commission Regulation 18371: AALRR Summer or Fall Bootcamp (see Attachment "A"), Fresno County Office of Education Board Governance Training (see Attachment "B"), and the Fair Political Practices Commission Ethics Training (online, on demand) at <https://lo-calethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>. This course satisfies the mandatory ethics requirements and allows the user to print a certificate of completion.

**CONCLUSION**

The Board of Trustees of the Fresno Unified School District appreciate the time and dedication of the Civil Grand Jury members in providing the District with the Report, findings, and recommendation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Valerie Davis, President, Governing Board of Trustees

cc: Mao Misty Her, Superintendent

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FRESNO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION