

Fresno Unified Superintendent Michael Hanson gets contract extension

By Hannah Furfaro

The Fresno Bee December 10, 2014

Fresno Unified Superintendent Michael Hanson will get an extra year tacked on to his contract following a positive performance evaluation on Wednesday from the board that oversees the district.

The school board voted in closed session at their meeting to extend his contract to 2019. Hanson has served in his position for a decade.

There's no raise attached to the evaluation, although Hanson is eligible for an annual increase based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. His current salary is \$297,000, part of a compensation package worth more than \$430,000 including his health and retirement benefits package.

In other business, Trustees Cal Johnson and Valerie Davis were sworn into office after victories in the Nov. 4 election. Trustee Christopher De La Cerda, who ran unopposed, was also sworn in. Trustee Brooke Ashjian, who on Wednesday began his first term serving as a representative for the Bullard High region, also took the oath of office.

The board also elected its new leadership, voting 6-1 with Ashjian abstaining to elect Johnson as the new board president. De La Cerda was picked as the new board clerk.

During a board presentation the district also received high marks on its annual financial audit, which included a review of the district's financial statements and compliance with federal and state laws.

Even so, Ashjian and Trustee Janet Ryan brought up concerns the district will need to face in future years, including a new state directive requiring districts to chip in more each year to employee pension plans.

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