

SOUL GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
Sanctuary Recreation Room
2336 Calaveras Street
Fresno, CA 93721
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
8:30 a.m.

AGENDA

	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	Dr. Terry Allen		
2. <u>ROLL CALL</u>	Commissioner Rodgers		
3. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes	Dr. Terry Allen	Approve	1
4. <u>PROPOSED TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE, NICHOLAS RODRIGUEZ</u>	Dr. Terry Allen	Approve	
5. <u>DANIELLA FLORES RECOGNITION</u>	Susan Lopez	Information	3
6. <u>SOUL UPDATE: PRINCIPAL REPORT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SOUL Graduation 2022• Salary Deferral Plan Update	Susan Lopez	Information	6
7. <u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	Dr. Terry Allen		
The next Governing Council meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2022.			
8. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u> (This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within jurisdiction but not on the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes).			
9. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>			

**FRESNO EOC SCHOOL OF UNLIMITED LEARNING
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
Sanctuary Recreation Room
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
MINUTES**

1. Meeting called to order by Dr. Terry Allen 8:32 a.m.
2. Roll call facilitated by Benita Washington.

Voting Members	Present	Excused	Absent	Staff	Present	Excused	Absent	Non-Voting Member	Present	Excused	Absent	Guests
Terry Allen, Ed.D., Chair, Retired Teacher Representative	X			Michelle Tutunjian		X		Felicia Olais			X	Jim Rodriguez, Fresno EOC Chief Financial Officer Cesar Lucio, Fresno EOC Program Operations Liaison Steve Warnes, Fresno EOC Controller SOUL Teachers
Benita Washington, Vice Chair, FSU Social Worker Representative	X			Emilia Reyes		X						
Jimi Rodgers, Secretary, Fresno EOC Commissioner	X											
Edward Avila, Fresno EOC Commissioner			X									
Larry Metzler, Cultural Arts Rotary Interact Club Advisor		X										
Chuck Riojas, Community Member			X									
Jeanne Starks, Retired Law Enforcement Juvenile Probation		X										
Jane Thomas, Director EOC Health Services, (Alternate) Jose Romero	X											
Parent Rep Maria Amaro Morales,			X									
Student Rep's Eliyanna Falcon Clarissa Burrill (2) Alternate Student Rep	X		X									
Susan Lopez, Staff Representative, Principal	X											
Rena Failla, Staff Representative, Guidance Coordinator	X											
Courtney Griffin, Staff Representative, Guidance Dean	X											
Ly Ngin, Staff Representative, College and Career Counselor	X											
Sandy Lomelino, Staff Representative, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction	X											
Patricia Billeadeau, Interact Representative	X											

Note: Jimi Rodgers attended meeting by telephone.

3. Approval of Minutes

September 13, 2022 SOUL Governing Council Meeting Minutes.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: Metzler **Second by:** Griffin

Ayes: Allen, Washington, Romero, Burrill, Lopez, Failla, Griffin, Ngin, Lomelino, Billeadeau.

Nays: None

4. Membership Sub-Committee Report

Annually, the Membership Sub-Committee reviews the Governing Council membership. The Council concluded that the current membership consists of a robust and diverse group of community leaders that reflect Section 1 of Article 4 of SOUL's By-Laws. The Sub-Committee recommended adding a teacher to the Governing Council membership.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: Washington **Second by:** Lomelino

Ayes: Allen, Washington, Romero, Burrill, Lopez, Failla, Griffin, Ngin, Lomelino, Billeadeau.

Nays: None

5. American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 for Homeless Children and Youth (HCY) (ARP-HCY II)

On March 11, 2021 the ARP was signed into law. Due to the impact COVID-19 Pandemic had on students experiencing homelessness, the ARP will provide support to the specific needs of homeless children and youth through the ARP, ESSER-ARP-HCY funds. SOUL will receive quarterly distributions of goods for our homeless youth. These goods include but are not limited to backpacks, school supplies, hygiene bags, winter apparel, etc. SOUL will be required to report the demographics of the number of homeless youths served. Jim Rodriguez, Fresno EOC Chief Financial Officer, will provide Rena Failla, Guidance Coordinator, with an in-kind donation form that she can complete and submit to Finance Department each time goods are received and distributed.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: Washington **Second by:** Griffin

Ayes: Allen, Washington, Romero, Burrill, Lopez, Failla, Griffin, Ngin, Lomelino, Billeadeau.

Nays: None

6. SOUL Updates: Principal Report

- Lopez presented the data on SOUL demographic information for the school enrollment and updates.
- The updated Infographic outlines SOUL various demographics.
- SOUL Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2022, from 12:00–1:30pm in the Recreation room. Sandy Lomelino, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction, will be presenting information on learning loss that occurs when students transfer to two or more schools, the Military will be present to talk about the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and the College and Career department will present on the earning possibilities available to those who attend college.
- Lopez provided information on the Interact Club activities for October. Interact Club students decorated the fall wreaths that are displayed along with hand painted pumpkins that will be for sale at Fresno EOC on Tuesday, October 25th and 27th.
- Interact Club students assisting with the Cultural Arts Rotary fundraiser did an outstanding job.

Rodriguez, and Steve Warnes, Fresno EOC Controller, reported on the status of the Faculty Pay Schedule. They stated progress has been made; Finance has consulted with a CPA firm and a labor attorney. Benita Washington, SOUL Governing Council Vice Chair, provided Rodriguez names of school district administrators to consult with. The internal plan is to have required information by the end of November 2022 in order to determine implementation of the pay schedule. Faculty had the opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback. Jimi Rodgers, SOUL Governing Council Secretary, requested from Rodriguez to provide an update at the next Fresno EOC Board meeting on October 26th. Rodriguez responded stating he will be at an out-of-state conference on October 26th; therefore, will provide Rodgers a summary of the status discussed; which can be used to provide an update during the Fresno EOC Board meeting.

7. Other Business

Dr. Allen announced the next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

8. Public Comments

None heard.

9. Adjournment of Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am

Submitted by Commissioner Jimi Rodgers, SOUL Governing Council Secretary



SCHOOL OF UNLIMITED LEARNING GOVERNING COUNCIL

Date: December 6, 2022	Program: School of Unlimited Learning
Agenda Item #: 1	Director: Susan Lopez
Subject: Daniella Flores Recognition	Officer: Michelle L. Tutunjian

Background

Daniella Flores, former SOUL student, was featured in the 2022 Stories of Hope magazine by Focus Forward. Fresno EOC also advertised in the magazine to promote the agency and SOUL. The magazine was launched on October 26, 2022 at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater in Fresno's Tower District.

Embracing introversion

Daniella Flores is a self-proclaimed introvert. In middle school, she struggled with the traditional norms and would prefer to stay home listening to her favorite band, Black Veil Brides, rather than go out and socialize.

“My biggest challenge has been my own brain. I’m in my head a lot. I’ve always been in my head. I isolate myself from people,” Daniella explains her thought process. “I can barely deal with the 20 things on my mind. It’s always been a juggling act. When I recognize that something will be triggering, I think ahead about how to limit the impact. I ask myself, ‘How can I get through what I’m going through without also causing ten times more stress.’”

In eighth grade, Daniella started coming out to people as bisexual. She shares, “The first thing I did was tell my mom. I was crying. She said, ‘I know. What do you want for dinner?’” While it wasn’t a big deal to her mom, the same was not true for others. She was bullied and excluded at school. “Middle school was the worst,” Daniella recounts.

High school didn’t get any better. “The first high school I went to had a lot of homophobic teachers and administrators, so I felt it a lot. I hung out with the band kids and LGBTQIA groups in the school, and I saw how they were treated by staff and teachers. They were treated as ‘others.’ I’m not sure if they [faculty and staff] were homophobic or just didn’t know how to treat gay kids,” Daniella explains.

She asked her mom if she could enroll in an independent study program. Her mom, who wanted Daniella to improve her socialization skills, resisted. They planned that she would start the new program in her junior year if she still wanted to.

“My sophomore year, I started at a different school because of the bullying. The guidance counselor called me in to tell me that I needed to take an afterschool class to get caught up,” she says. Daniella was behind academically and not on track to graduate on time.

“The school environment just triggered me a lot. I had suicidal ideation. While talking to the counselor, I had a full-fledged emotional breakdown. It was a severe panic attack. I was hyperventilating, shaking, and crying hysterically. It was scary. I thought I was going to pass out. Not only was it scary to me because I didn’t know what was going on with my body, but it was also scary to the counselor,” Daniella explains. According to Daniella, the school considered calling the authorities. Instead, they made the decision to call her mom.

“After crying together and talking, she [Daniella’s mom] agreed to enroll me in home-based school,” Daniella recounts.

Daniella enrolled at Fresno EOC School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL), a Fresno Unified Charter High School. Everything changed. Daniella found the faculty and staff at SOUL to be accepting and nurturing. She would go to the campus weekly for about an hour to share homework. “I was able to get caught up with my classes and graduate on time with a really good GPA. The teachers were lifesavers. I never had teachers who were so nice, respectful, and understanding of their students. If I was having a bad day, they would notice; they would ask. Knowing people cared was life-changing for me,” she shares.

Daniella graduated in 2016 and enrolled at Fresno City College. “Going into college made my school experience a lot more bearable. I could set my schedule and leave campus if I felt triggered. I was a psychology major. I did general ed and psychology prerequisite for transfer,” Daniella says.

In 2020, Daniella transferred to Fresno State months before the pandemic forced the transition to online learning. “I do much better when I’m in my own space and on my own time. I loved being online and doing what I needed to do when I needed to do it. I could roll out of bed, get a coffee, and listen to a lecture,” Daniella explains. Daniella graduated from Fresno State with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology.

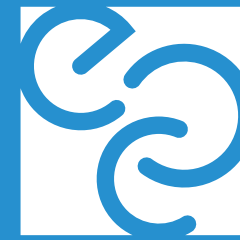
Now 24 years old, Daniella embraces her introversion and will start Southern New Hampshire University in July 2023, studying online for a master’s degree in forensic psychology. •

“I 100% believe transferring to SOUL saved my life.”

SCHOOL OF UNLIMITED LEARNING (SOUL)

The mission of the SOUL charter high school is to provide comprehensive learning experiences in a manner and environment that enables students to obtain skills, knowledge, and motivation to be self-directed, lifelong learners as they mature toward self-sufficiency. SOUL offers a hybrid independent study program. SOUL’s instructional staff consists of 10 fully credentialed, full-time teachers who serve an average of 200 students per semester. SOUL offers a rigorous academic, standards-based curriculum and is an excellent educational option for those seeking a small school alternative to a large, traditional high school.





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Economic
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**FRESNO EOC HAS
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PROGRAMS INCLUDING:**

Head Start 0 to 5

Local Conservation Corps

Valley Apprenticeship Connections

Workforce Connection
Young Adult Program

Sanctuary Youth Shelter

LGBTQ+ Resource Center

For more information visit:
www.FresnoEOC.org

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SOUL Governing Council Principal Report – December 6, 2022

	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	TOTALS
Enrollment By Grade	15	47	53	77	192

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Enrollment by Gender	82	110	192

Enrollment by Ethnicity

Hispanic	156
African American	23
Asian	2
White	6
Middle Eastern	0
Pacific Islander	2
American Indian	2
Total	192

Special Populations

Teen Parent	7
Special Needs	21
English Learners	22
Homeless	15
Foster/Group Home	4



You are cordially invited to attend



Fresno EOC
SOUL
Charter
High School

Class of 2022

Graduation Commencement

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Sanctuary Theater

2336 Calaveras

Fresno, CA 93721

