BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

Working together with families, the community, and highly qualified staff, the Buckeye Union School District ensures that each student masters the knowledge and skills needed to maximize their academic and personal success in a global society.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Closed Session – 6:00 p.m.
Open Session – 7:00 p.m.

Board of Education meetings are held in person in the Boardroom located at
5049 Robert J. Mathews Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA, 95762
(Please enter the Board Room from the rear of the building)

If you would like to *view* the meeting remotely, please register at this link in order to receive a meeting link to your email to join the webinar:
https://buckeyeusd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nXgNAgCQRzeUxfquuJ9lYw

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Brenda Hanson-Smith, Ph.D., Kirk Seal, Jon Yoffie, Scott Masten, Ph.D., Melissa Keyzer
Superintendent, David Roth, Ph.D. / Assistant Superintendent, Jacqueline McHaney

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Public attendance is welcomed and encouraged. The district has taken the following steps in offering public comment:

1. **In-Person Public Comment**: Public comment may be offered in person during the board meeting.

2. **Written Public Comment**: Members of the public who are unable to attend and wish to address the Board can email the Board at *Board@BuckeyeUSD.org*. All correspondence will be shared with the entire Board as well as the Superintendent.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Hanson-Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS **Related to closed session agenda items only*

None

III. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

1. **DISCUSSION -** Conference with District Negotiators, Superintendent David Roth, Ph.D., and Assistant Superintendent Jackie McHaney, in reference to negotiations with the California School Employees Association (CSEA) - Pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6

2. **DISCUSSION -** Confidential Student Matter

Board Member Keyzer called the closed session to order at 6:00 p.m.
Board Member Seal seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

Board Member Seal moved to adjourn to open session at 6:46 p.m.
Board Member Keyzer seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION *(7:00 P.M.)*

Board Member Hanson-Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

V. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

VI. FLAG SALUTE

Valley View student led the flag salute.

VII. ROLL CALL

Present: Brenda Hanson-Smith, Ph.D.
Kirk Seal
Jon Yoffie
Scott Masten, Ph.D.
Melissa Keyzer

VIII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Seal motioned to approve the agenda, as presented.
Board Member Keyzer seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

IX. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

1. Valley View Middle School Student Presentation
    - Students: Wyatt Saura, Student Body President
    - Students reported on school activities: Election of new student officers, a highly successful KCRA Camp Food Drive that collected over 1,000 canned goods, and participation in multiple clubs such as Art Club, Dungeons & Dragons, Crochet Club, Drama Club, and Trivia Bee. Students also described their involvement in the Harvest Festival, where leadership students helped run booths to support the PTO's fundraising efforts, and shared details about upcoming events including a Veterans Day Dessert Social, a February "Old Hollywood" dance, and the annual Color Clash Rally.
    - Board members commended the students for their leadership, enthusiasm, and strong participation in community service. Questions were asked about the food drive and the "Beyblades Club," with students explaining the friendly competition among classes to collect donations and clarifying that the club involves spinning top-style games.

2. Camerado Springs Middle School Student Presentation
    - Students: Jacob Jones, President
      Adrian Rubalcaba, Vice President
    - Students reported on school activities: began their presentation with a fun "Jeopardy!"-style game that included school and pop culture trivia. Students shared updates on recent and upcoming campus events, including the completion of cross-country and girls' volleyball seasons and the start of boys' basketball and girls' soccer. They highlighted leadership's increased role in independently running student council meetings, participation in Red Ribbon Week with themed spirit days and a movie-inspired door decorating contest, and the successful "Black Cat Dance." Additional activities included a Halloween rally featuring teacher and student performances, an 8th-grade egg drop competition, and an ongoing canned food drive. Upcoming events include holiday activities, the annual talent show, and "Air Jam," which will feature a *Jurassic Park* theme this year.
    - Board members praised the students for their creativity, enthusiasm, and school spirit, noting the engaging variety of activities and leadership opportunities offered at Camerado Springs Middle School.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS **Related to non-agenda items only*

The Board has received public comment via written correspondence from the following individual(s) since the previous regular board meeting:

- Cheri Charles (email 10/2/25)
- Nick and Nicole Nilsen (email 10/2/25)

The following individual(s) provided in-person public comment: None

Public comment closed at 7:21 p.m.

XI. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Valley View Middle School Principal Presentation

(Paul Stewart, Principal)

Paul Stewart, Principal, and Amanda Alessandro, Assistant Principal, presented the above-linked Valley View Charter Montessori School report to the Board, which included information on the diverse regional attendance area; the STEAM Lab supported by skilled parent and grandparent volunteers; the garden and "Garden of Learning" programs; the Rattler-focused environmental learning projects; state assessment trends in ELA, math, and science and corresponding instructional adjustments; successful efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism and suspensions through relationship-building, PBIS, and restorative practices; and key schoolwide events such as Patriot Day, Veterans Day celebrations, vibrant cafeteria "Rattler Café" spirit activities, Montessori and IB-aligned instructional practices, art and design highlights, student success in the transit bus art contest, and middle school culture-building activities including Color Clash competitions.

Discussion:
Board members inquired about chronic absenteeism trends and were informed that school rates have improved to at or better than pre-COVID levels. A Board member who recently visited the campus commended the vibrant, engaging school environment and thanked Principal Stewart and staff for their efforts and informative presentation.

XII. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report: David Roth, Ph.D.
    - Recent district events, including band concerts, county cross-country finals, Harvest Carnivals, and Halloween celebrations at school sites. He highlighted a visit to Sly Park's outdoor environmental science program, noting strong parent participation, teacher commitment, and the high-quality experience for students.

- El Dorado Union High School District Board expressed enthusiasm for creating a Mandarin pathway at Oak Ridge High School to support students matriculating from the Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) program.
- Attended a California Collaborative for District Reform meeting, where improvement efforts in Napa Valley USD were reviewed, and noted alignment with Buckeye Union's practices and opportunities to further strengthen local work.
- District operations are running smoothly.

2. Association Reports:
   - Buckeye Teachers Association (BTA) - None
   - California School Employees Association (CSEA) - None
3. Enrollment Report: Jackie McHaney
   - Ms. McHaney reported that there are currently 4,215 students enrolled in our District, a decrease of 5 students from the previous report.
4. Charter Quarterly Reports:
   - California Montessori Project (CMP): Sara Meece
     i. Sara presented the above-linked report to the Board, which included information on the school's annual theme, *"Grounded and Growing,"* and highlighted student learning projects, community-building events, and campus initiatives. Described academic enrichment activities such as student presentations beginning in second grade, middle school literacy and science projects, and the integration of Montessori and hands-on learning practices. Reported on recent events including the Trunk-or-Treat community celebration, Red Ribbon Week presentations in partnership with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, expansion of the school's garden program through Project Green and a native plant grant, anti-bullying and kindness campaigns tied to Unity Day, and the school's Alice in Wonderland–themed book fair. Additionally, shared community outreach efforts such as a campus food pantry, a sock drive for Hands4Hope, and student letters to veterans.
     ii. Board members thanked Sara for her detailed and inspiring presentation, commending CMP-Shingle Springs for its strong focus on community engagement, student leadership, and hands-on learning opportunities. They expressed appreciation for the partnerships with families and volunteers that enrich the school's programs and culture.
   - Cottonwood Charter School: Cindy Garcia
     i. See Public Hearing section XIV.2.

5. Reports and Requests by Board Members
    - Board Member Keyzer reported on attending the district Inservice Day ("I-Day") sessions held at Camerado and Blue Oak, commending Rachelle Ball and staff for their extensive preparation and collaboration. She also attended several *Coffee with the Superintendent* events and commended Dr. Roth for his open communication with families. Ms. Keyzer further shared that she visited multiple school Harvest Carnivals (Blue Oak, Buckeye, and Valley View), recognizing volunteers for their strong community involvement.
    - Board Member Yoffie reported on attending the recent *LCAP meeting*, noting that the discussion included upcoming fiscal challenges and the importance of clear communication and preparation. He commended Dr. Roth for effectively conveying complex information and maintaining transparency during uncertain times.
    - Board Member Hanson-Smith reported on attending the *El Dorado County School Boards Association (EDCSBA)* meeting on behalf of Scott Masten. She shared that district representatives discussed financial pressures common across county districts and plans for the upcoming annual dinner event. Dr. Hanson-Smith noted that while the meeting was uneventful, it reaffirmed the strong collaboration and shared focus on student success among local districts.

Following all reports, the Board will accept Public Comments regarding any report(s).

Public Comment: None

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be enacted by the Board in one motion. There will be no discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless members of the Board, staff, or public request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Agenda. If items are pulled for discussion, a separate vote will occur on the items(s). The Superintendent and staff recommend approval of all Consent Agenda items.

1. Board Meeting Minutes - October 1, 2025
2. Personnel Update - November 5, 2025
3. Declaration of Surplus
    - Oak Meadow - September 30, 2025
    - Rolling Hills - October 20, 2025
4. Donation to School - Adopt-a-Class (Oak Meadow Elementary)
    - $300 Sueng Kei Lau and Long Luong
5. Summary of Warrants (2025-2026): September 1- 30, 2025 *(report linked)*

The Board will accept Public Comment regarding any Consent Agenda item(s) prior to the Board's action.

Board Member Yoffie motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.
Board Member Seal seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 5-0.

XIV. PUBLIC HEARING

1. **ACTION -** Consideration/Approval of the 2025-2026 Tentative Agreement regarding the negotiated settlement between the Buckeye Union School District and the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 683

Conduct of Hearing:
a) Staff report and discussion; b) Open Public Hearing; c) Public Testimony/Comment;
d) Close the public hearing; e) ***Board discussion & Vote***

In accordance with California Government Code Section 3547, CSEA's initial contract reopeners are sunshined for public inspection and comment.

(Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

Conduct of Hearing:

a. Staff Report:
   - Ms. McHaney presented the staff report regarding the tentative agreement reached with the California School Employees Association (CSEA) for the 2025–2026 school year. The agreement mirrors the settlements reached with the Buckeye Teachers Association and unrepresented employee groups. For 2024–2025, there are no additional compensation increases; for 2025–2026, the agreement includes a 1% salary schedule increase, retroactive to July 1, 2025, and a 3% off-schedule payment. The CSEA chapter ratified the agreement with overwhelming support. Ms. McHaney also reported on the initiation of the new joint Health Benefits Committee, with two meetings scheduled and both units currently selecting committee members.

b. Open Public Hearing:
   - Board Member Hanson-Smith opened at 8:08 p.m.

c. Public Testimony/Comment:
   - Public Comment: None
   - Public Comment closed at 8:08 p.m.

d. Close Public Hearing
   - Board Member Hanson-Smith closed the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.

e. Board Discussion and Vote:
   - Discussion: None
   - Board Member Yoffie motioned to approve items XIV.1., as presented. Board Member Seal seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **DISCUSSION -** The Cottonwood School Charter Renewal

Conduct of Hearing:
a) Staff report and discussion; b) Open Public Hearing; c) Public Testimony/Comment;
d) Close the public hearing; e) ***Board discussion***

The Buckeye Union School District Governing Board hereby gives notice that it will hold a Public Hearing in accordance with Education Code §47605(b) to consider the level of support for the petition to renew the charter of The Cottonwood School by teachers employed by the school district and The Cottonwood School, other employees of the school district and The Cottonwood School, and parents. The District received the renewal petition on October 24, 2025.

Copies of the submitted Charter may be inspected at: The Cottonwood School Charter Renewal *(report linked)*

(Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

Conduct of Hearing:

a. Staff Report:
   - Ms. McHaney reported that the District received a renewal petition from The Cottonwood School for a five-year term, with the current charter set to expire at the end of the school year. She outlined the renewal process requirements, including holding this initial public hearing within 30 school days to receive public input, the preparation and publication of a detailed staff report at least 15 days prior to the final decision hearing, and the availability of all petition documents (including exhibits) via the Board agenda for public and Board review.

b. Open Public Hearing:
   - Board Member Hanson-Smith opened at 8:11 p.m.

c. Public Testimony/Comment:
   - As part of the public hearing, Cindy Garcia, representing The Cottonwood School, along with Dr. Jodian Beeson (CCPA Director) and Amy Frydenlund (Director of Instruction), presented a Cottonwood Charter School Slideshow covering highlights of the renewal petition, including:
     1. Cottonwood's educational programs (TK Explorers, Superstar Readers, BOOST K–5 classes, RISE 6–8 classes).
     2. Dual high school pathways (Home Study and Cottonwood College Preparatory Academy) with virtual, blended, and college-prep options.
     3. Use of Montessori-influenced, independent study, and virtual instruction models; strong family engagement; extensive field trip and community connection opportunities.
     4. CAASPP results demonstrating growth and performance at or above state outcomes.

- Dr. Norman Lorenz, Board President for The Cottonwood School, provided public comment expressing appreciation to Buckeye Union School District for its long-term partnership and support of innovative homeschool and Montessori-inspired programs.
- Public Comment closed at 8:26 p.m.

d. Close Public Hearing
   - Board Member Hanson-Smith closed the public hearing at 8:26 p.m.

e. Board Discussion:
   - Board members thanked Cottonwood representatives for their thorough presentation and acknowledged the depth of the renewal materials. No formal Board action was taken at this meeting; the final recommendation and vote on the Cottonwood Charter School renewal will occur at a subsequent Board meeting following issuance of the staff report.

XV. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

Public Comment is welcomed prior to the Board's action on any of the following items or in response to any discussion item(s).

1. **DISCUSSION -** Williams Monitoring Report for Oak Meadow Elementary
   (Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

Ms. Jackie McHaney reported on the Williams Monitoring Review for Oak Meadow Elementary School. She explained that the school was identified for monitoring based on 2022–23 attendance data following the COVID period, which triggered a three-year Williams review process by the El Dorado County Office of Education. The review verified sufficiency of instructional materials, facility conditions, posting of the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP), and accuracy of School Accountability Report Card (SARC) data. Mrs. McHaney commended Principal Amy Pirkl, Facilities Director Brian McCahon, and staff for their efforts preparing required documentation and noted that the site received an exemplary facilities rating and full compliance in all review areas.

Discussion:
Superintendent Roth expressed appreciation for staff efforts but voiced frustration with the bureaucratic nature of the state and federal accountability systems, noting that many districts were identified post-COVID due to chronic absenteeism metrics. He emphasized that Oak Meadow's identification resulted from one subgroup ("Two or More Races") that fell into the red zone for chronic absenteeism in 2022–23 and clarified that the monitoring applies only to Oak Meadow for a three-year period. The Board briefly discussed the broader issue of statewide accountability adjustments anticipated in response to widespread post-pandemic identifications.

2. **DISCUSSION -** Enrollment Enhancement Strategies

(David Roth, Ph.D., Superintendent)

Superintendent Roth reported on enrollment enhancement strategies. He reviewed the district's past efforts to attract and retain students, including the success of the Blue Oak Charter Montessori Program, which now serves approximately 700 students, around 200 of whom reside outside the district, and the growing Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Program, which currently serves about 225 students, with roughly 130–140 from outside the district. Superintendent Roth shared that, with the statewide moratorium on new non-classroom-based charter schools lifting January 1, staff would like to explore the feasibility of a Buckeye Union–operated home school (non-classroom-based charter) program to further expand enrollment opportunities. The exploratory process would involve researching requirements, gauging community interest, and determining financial viability before potentially moving forward. He noted that if the concept were feasible, a report would likely return to the Board by March 2026.

Discussion:
Board members expressed support for staff exploring the concept, emphasizing the importance of determining community interest, ensuring the program is financially additive, and maintaining focus on serving students. Trustees asked questions about potential grade spans, administrative needs, funding models, and program design. They encouraged staff to proceed with preliminary research and outreach, noting that any future proposal should return to the Board for review once sufficient information is available. Consensus was reached for staff to move forward with exploratory work.

XVI. NEXT MEETING

- Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. @ Buckeye Union School District - VIA Zoom and in-person

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Hanson-Smith stated that this meeting stands adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Board Member Keyzer motioned to adjourn.
Board Member Masten seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

Approval Date:_____

By: _____ By: _____

Kirk Seal, Clerk David Roth, Ph.D., Secretary

Any writings or documents that are public records and are provided to a majority of the governing Board regarding an open session item (or closed session statement threatening litigation) on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the District Office located at 5049 Robert J. Mathews Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 during normal business hours.