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, January 21, 2026

NO CLOSED SESSION

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_48Rzg12DQoKP9GWsGNmHMA

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

Acting Board President Keyzer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Buckeye Elementary student led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Kirk Seal

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Hanson-Smith motioned to approve the agenda, as presented.
Board Member Masten seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0.

V. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

1. Camerado Springs Middle School Student Presentation
    - Students: Jacob Jones, President
    - Students reported on school activities via a video (linked above): Coordination of the Buckeye USD Jamboree supporting elementary basketball teams; leadership-led canned food drive benefiting the El Dorado County community; completion of boys basketball and girls soccer seasons, with both 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams advancing to playoffs and the 8th grade team reaching the championship game; and the annual air jam and talent show featuring multiple student performances. Students also shared upcoming leadership activities, including a 3-on-3 intramural basketball tournament, a Super Bowl–themed dance, Valentine's Day activities, and planning for the incoming 6th grade orientation on April 14.

Following all presentations, the Board will accept Public Comments regarding any presentation(s).

VI. 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:

- Shant Sahakian (email 12/16/25)
- Josh (email 12/16/25)
- Michael L. Younger (email 12/16/25)
- Jennifer Kenney (email 12/16/25)

The following individual(s) provided in-person public comment:

- None

Public comment closed at 7:11 p.m.

VII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Employees of the Year: Buckeye Elementary School
    - Classified Employee of the Year: Katie Twergo, Teacher Associate
        i. Kevin Cadden, Buckeye Elementary School Principal, congratulated Katie and recognized her outstanding work in special education, noting her consistent support of students with diverse needs, her positive impact on behavior and academics, and her willingness to step in wherever needed, including Unified Sports and extracurricular support.
        ii. Superintendent Roth presented Katie with a certificate and commended her dedication, flexibility, and commitment to Buckeye students, highlighting her courage in joining the district during a challenging time and her strong reputation among staff and families.
    - Certificated Employee of the Year: Esther Dawson, Teacher
        i. Kevin Cadden, Buckeye Elementary School Principal, congratulated Esther and recognized her exceptional leadership as a special education learning specialist, citing her passion for student growth, high expectations, continuous learning, and meaningful impact on student achievement and campus culture.
        ii. Superintendent Roth presented Esther with a certificate and praised her commitment, professionalism, and nurturing yet accountable approach, noting her role as a highly valued member of the Buckeye Union School District team.

(Kevin Cadden, Principal)

2. Blue Oak Elementary School Principal Presentation

(Julie Hughes, Principal)

- Julie Hughes, Principal, presented the above-linked presentation to the Board, which included information on Blue Oak Elementary's strong community culture, family engagement activities (family lunches, Walk to School Day, PTA events, and Unified Sports), enrichment programs (STEM, Meet the Masters, cross-country and fitness clubs), and academic progress. The presentation also reviewed student achievement data, including gains in ELA, math, and science, notable improvement for students with disabilities, strategies for targeted intervention and pre-teaching, efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism, and the school's proactive approach to student behavior and campus climate.
- Board member discussion: Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the math pre-teaching intervention model, including how students are identified, the duration of intervention, and how progress is monitored. Board members also expressed appreciation for the school's community focus, student support, and positive academic outcomes.

Following all presentations, the Board will accept Public Comments regarding any presentation(s).

Public Comment: None

VIII. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report: David Roth, Ph.D.
   - Recognized Board Appreciation Month and thanked Board members for their collaboration and service, noting appreciation from district staff.
   - Reported that district leadership is closely reviewing the Governor's budget proposal, including a projected COLA increase and potential one-time funding, while continuing to monitor for changes before the budget is finalized.
   - Shared updates on statewide advocacy efforts to "Raise the Base" under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), including outreach to other superintendents and continued expansion of support for the initiative.
   - Noted state budget considerations related to Proposition 98 funding, including planned repayment of prior deferrals and proposed new withholdings, and stated the district will continue tracking impacts.
   - Reported that the District issued a communication to Rolling Hills/BUMI, Silva Valley, and Oak Meadow/BUMI communities regarding the Costco project and the release of the Costco Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Announced a community meeting scheduled for February 2, 6:00–8:00 p.m., at Oak Meadow, including a brief presentation and breakout sessions with project experts to address topics such as traffic, air quality, and other concerns.

2. Association Reports:
    - Buckeye Teachers Association (BTA) - Amy Gargani reported on the positive working relationship with the Board, expressing appreciation for the spirit of collaboration, mutual respect, and strong labor-management partnership that supports positive working conditions across the district.
    - California School Employees Association (CSEA) - None
3. Enrollment Report: Jackie McHaney
    - Ms. McHaney reported that there are currently 4,223 students enrolled in our District, an increase of 2 students from the previous report.
4. Reports and Requests by Board Members - None

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

Public Comment: None

IX. 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 - December 10, 2025
2. Personnel Update - January 21, 2026
3. Donation to School - Adopt-a-Class (Oak Meadow Elementary/BUMI)
    - $500 Thuraieh and Majd Michael
4. Approval of Overnight Field Trip(s) for 2026/2027:
    - William Brooks, Sierra Outdoor School (December 9-11, 2026)
5. Summary of Warrants (2025-2026): December 1- 31, 2025 *(report linked)*
6. 2024/2025 School Accountability Report Cards (SARC): *(reports linked HERE)*
    - Blue Oak Elementary School
    - Buckeye Elementary School
    - Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion Charter School
    - Oak Meadow Elementary School
    - Silva Valley Elementary School
    - William Brooks Elementary School
    - Valley View Charter Montessori School
    - Camerado Springs Middle School, International Baccalaureate World School
    - Rolling Hills Middle School
7. 2025/2026 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) Reports: *(reports linked HERE)*
    - Blue Oak Elementary School
    - Buckeye Elementary School
    - Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion Charter School
    - Oak Meadow Elementary School
    - Silva Valley Elementary School
    - William Brooks Elementary School
    - Valley View Charter Montessori School
    - Camerado Springs Middle School, International Baccalaureate World School
    - Rolling Hills Middle School

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 Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

1. **ACTION-** The Cottonwood School Charter Renewal

   Approve the Renewal Request **(Resolution #26-06)** of the Charter Petition for The Cottonwood School (TCS) for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031 to serve up to a maximum of 4,500 students in grades Transitional Kindergarten through 12th Grade

   Copies of the submitted Charter may be inspected at: The Cottonwood School Charter Renewal & The Cottonwood School Staff Report *(reports linked)*

   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***

   (Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

   Conduct of Hearing:

   a. Staff Report:
      - Ms. McHaney reported that, as The Cottonwood School (TCS) authorizer, this item is up for a vote. The District received the TCS renewal petition on October 24, 2025 and previously held a Public Hearing on November 5, 2025. The staff report regarding the Petition was prepared and posted on January 5, 2025. TCS is asking the Board to approve the **renewal request of the Charter Petition for The Cottonwood School (TCS) for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031** to serve up to a maximum of 4,500 students in grades Transitional Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

   b. Open Public Hearing:
      - *Acting* Board President Keyzer opened the public hearing at 7:54 p.m.

   c. Public Testimony/Comment:
      - None
      - Public Comment closed at 7:54 p.m.

   d. Public Hearing closed at 7:54 p.m.

   e. Board Discussion and Vote:
      - Board Discussion: Board Member Masten asked how the charter's increased enrollment cap was determined in light of declining district enrollment and whether safeguards, enrollment monitoring, and

fiscal impacts were considered. Ms. McHaney explained that the cap was based on long-term enrollment trends, that the District is legally limited in considering competitive impacts, that the charter primarily serves students from outside the District, and that there is no fiscal impact as that term is used when reviewing a charter petition because the District does not incur additional costs or divert resources beyond what is required by law.

- Board Member Masten motioned to approve Resolution #26-06 to renew TCS, as presented.
- Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 4-0.

XI. 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. **ACTION -** Approval of Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Application for Brent Ulrici, Special Education Teacher at Oak Meadow Elementary School, for the 2025-2026 school year

(Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

Ms. McHaney reported that the administration is requesting approval to submit an application for a Provisional Internship Permit (PIP). This PIP will allow for the continued employment of Brent Ulrici, Special Education Teacher at Oak Meadow. Multiple recruitment efforts for a Special Education teacher have resulted in no qualified applicants.

Board Member Hanson-Smith motioned to approve the Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Application for Brent Ulrici, Special Education Teacher at Oak Meadow Elementary School, for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. Board Member Yoffie seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. ~~**ACTION**~~ **-** Approval of Suggested Revisions to Buckeye Union Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws/Exhibits (first reading) *(policies linked to coversheet)*
(Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

Ms. McHaney reminded the Board that CSBA periodically publishes suggested changes to school district policies in order to bring them in alignment with changes in the law.

Board Discussion: Board members discussed the policy updates and agreed to postpone action until the next meeting so all trustees would have time to thoroughly review the changes.

- **AR 3515.4 (Recovery for Property Loss or Damage)**
  - Consistency issue - While the regulation authorizes the withholding of student grades, diplomas, or transcripts until property damage is resolved, the accompanying Board Policy specifies that the District shall not collect debt for property damage from a current or former student who is experiencing homelessness or is a foster youth. To align the regulation with Board Policy and current law, a Board member requested that clarifying language be added to AR 3515.4 stating that the Superintendent or designee shall not withhold grades, diplomas, transcripts, or otherwise condition the release of educational records for any current or former student who is experiencing homelessness or who is a foster child or youth, consistent with Education Code sections 48904 and 49014. The Board agreed this language would resolve the inconsistency without altering the District's general authority to recover damages.
- **AR 3515 (Campus Security)**
  - Language related to video surveillance systems appeared in the Board Policy but was no longer included in the corresponding regulation. Board members questioned whether the removal was intentional or if the language had been relocated elsewhere within the policy framework. Staff indicated that the surveillance language appeared to have been removed from the regulation in the CSBA update, though it remained in the Board Policy. The Board requested that staff review this issue further and return with clarification and any recommended revisions at the second reading to ensure alignment and completeness.

XII. NEXT MEETING

- Regular Board Meeting
- Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
  @ Buckeye Union School District - VIA Zoom and in-person

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Board President Keyzer stated that this meeting stands adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Board Member Hanson-Smith motioned to adjourn.
Board Member Masten seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0.

Approval Date:_____

By: _____ Melissa Keyzer, Clerk

By: _____ 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.

Individuals requiring special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in accessible formats, etc.) should contact the Superintendent at least two days before the meeting date at (916) 985-2183 ext. 1012.

Parents/guardians may request that directory information or personal information of the student or parent/guardian, provided at the Board meeting, be redacted from the minutes. To request information be redacted, please contact the Superintendent at (916) 985-2183 ext. 1012.