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, February 4, 2026

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_oOjYSx_aTRyWJTXZ8zxKCw

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

Board President Seal 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. **ACTION -** Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Govt. Code § 54957):

   Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employee(s):
   - Resolution **#26-05**
   - Resolution **#26-07**
   - Resolution **#26-08**
   - Resolution **#26-09**

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

Board Member Masten moved to adjourn to open session at 6:38 p.m.
Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

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

Board President Seal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

V. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board President Seal announced that, during closed session, the Board took action to unanimously (5-0) approve Resolution #25-05, 25-07, 25-08, and 25-09.

VI. FLAG SALUTE

Board President Seal led the flag salute.

VII. ROLL CALL

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

VIII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IX. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

1. Rolling Hills Middle School Student Presentation
    - Students: William Parsley, President
      Maanya Bojja, Vice President
      Hamna Waqar, Treasurer
      Rivaan Tanneru, Secretary
    - Students reported on school activities: Leadership-planned spirit events such as 12 winter dress-up days, holiday candy-gram sales, and a schoolwide book exchange prior to winter break. Students highlighted fundraising events benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, including the annual dodgeball tournament, movie night, and district-themed donation competitions. Additional activities included a Chinese New Year celebration, campus-wide themed decorations, a holiday food drive, Valentine's Day candy-grams, and upcoming events such as March Madness basketball intramurals and an after-school social for sixth and seventh graders.

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

Public Comment: None

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: None

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

Public comment closed at 7:00 p.m.

XI. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Employees of the Year: Blue Oak Elementary School
    - Classified Employee of the Year: Hilda Marinko, Administrative Assistant
        i. Julie Hughes, Blue Oak Principal, congratulated Hilda and stated that she is a dedicated and joyful leader who has successfully transitioned into the full-time site secretary role, consistently creating a welcoming environment for students, families, and staff while keeping the front office running smoothly.
        ii. Superintendent Roth presented Hilda with a certificate and recognized her as one of the warmest and most positive presences on campus, noting her strong connection with students and her ability to support the school community during stressful moments.
    - Certificated Employee of the Year: Lisa Olmstead, Teacher
        i. Julie Hughes, Blue Oak Principal, congratulated Lisa and stated that she exemplifies professionalism, organization, and compassion, supporting student academic growth while fostering a calm,

structured, and welcoming learning environment for students and colleagues, alongside her therapy dog, Marigold.

ii. Superintendent Roth presented Lisa with a certificate and commended her steady leadership and thoughtful problem-solving, noting that her calm presence, together with Marigold, helps create a supportive environment for students.

(Julie Hughes, Principal)

2. Buckeye Elementary School Principal Presentation

(Kevin Cadden, Principal)

- Kevin Cadden, Buckeye Elementary School Principal, presented the above-linked presentation to the Board, which included information on student enrollment and demographics; schoolwide activities and events such as TK programming, family engagement activities, PTC-led fundraisers, campus improvements, and an outdoor learning space; academic performance and growth in ELA, math, and science; efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism; PBIS implementation and recognition; and community partnerships supporting a resource closet and student wellness.
- Board members discussed the school's emergency preparedness and use of the generator trailer during power outages, as well as the effectiveness of campus security cameras as a deterrent to vandalism. The Board thanked the principal for the comprehensive update and recognized the school's progress in attendance, student support systems, and family engagement.

3. California Dashboard - District Presentation of State Dashboard Indicators

(David Roth, Ph.D., Superintendent)

- Superintendent Roth presented the above-linked website to the Board and provided a high-level overview of the California School Dashboard metrics, including the distinction between local indicators (student climate surveys, teacher standards-alignment surveys, and the annual parent survey) and state indicators reported on the Dashboard. He reviewed district performance highlights, including science performance in the "high" range and new growth metrics showing over 70% of students demonstrating growth in English language arts and mathematics. Superintendent Roth reviewed subgroup performance (including the state's newer long-term English learner subgroup and district protocols to identify at-risk students earlier), and shared that chronic absenteeism has decreased significantly over time and is currently reported at 6.3% districtwide, with a suspension rate of approximately 2%.
- Board members discussed district performance trends reflected on the Dashboard, including chronic absenteeism, suspension rate, and the importance of continued support for student subgroups. No additional questions were raised following the presentation.

4. Raise The Base! Advocacy effort to increase public school funding for all students
(David Roth, Ph.D., Superintendent)

    - Superintendent Roth presented the above-linked website to the Board and provided an overview of the "Raise The Base!" school funding initiative, including the District's fiscal context (structural deficit and increasing cost pressures) and Buckeye Union's comparatively low LCFF funding due to a lower unduplicated pupil percentage. He explained that the District's relative funding position has declined over time and shared his statewide analysis of LCFF revenue per ADA, noting that more than 200 districts now fall significantly below the statewide median, representing approximately 1.25 million students. Superintendent Roth reviewed the website tools and data displays (statewide and county-level sortable lists and a district trend tool showing Buckeye's position below the median), described outreach to superintendents and districts statewide, and noted the growing coalition of districts and organizations adding their names to the site along with a petition and communications resources. He emphasized that increasing the LCFF base is the most viable approach to improving adequacy without worsening disparities and shared concerns that future policy changes could unintentionally increase inequities for lower-funded districts.
    - Board members discussed the website's effectiveness as a communications and advocacy tool and commended the work to elevate statewide awareness. Board members asked questions about how raising the base addresses adequacy and inflationary cost drivers (including rising benefit costs, technology needs, special education, utilities, insurance, and declining enrollment impacts), potential strategies for identifying legislative champions using regional data, and how the proposal could be advanced given state budget constraints. Superintendent Roth responded that raising the base helps districts keep pace with inflation and maintain baseline services, and noted that proposed state programs and policy choices indicate funding priorities can be adjusted over time. Board Member Yoffie requested equal opportunity to deliver the outcome.

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

Public Comment: None

XII. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report: David Roth, Ph.D.
    - Discuss appointment of Joel Dameral as principal of William Brooks Elementary beginning July 1, 2026. He is currently serving as interim principal.
        i. Superintendent Roth reported that the District faced challenges last year in recruiting a new principal for William Brooks Elementary and entered into a unique arrangement appointing Joel Dameral as

interim principal as he was relocating from South Lake Tahoe to the area. Superintendent Roth shared that feedback on Mr. Dameral's leadership has been consistently positive throughout the year, including a recent check-in with teachers and staff that resulted in unanimous support. Superintendent Roth stated that Mr. Dameral has expressed interest in continuing at William Brooks Elementary and that the District would like to appoint him as principal moving forward; the item is included on the consent agenda (Personnel Update) for Board action.

ii. Mr. Dameral thanked the Board and Superintendent Roth for the opportunity, noted that relocating has been positive for him and his wife, and expressed appreciation for the strong support from the District office and site teams as he continues the work at William Brooks Elementary.

iii. Board Member Keyzer shared that community members and parents have frequently asked whether Mr. Dameral would stay, and expressed relief to be able to confirm he will continue; Superintendent Roth noted an announcement would be issued to the William Brooks community.

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 4,224 students enrolled in our District, an increase of 1 student from the previous report.
4. Reports and Requests by Board Members
    - Board Member Keyzer reported on attending the El Dorado County School Boards Association (EDCSBA) meeting with Board Member Hanson-Smith, noting that districts across the county shared updates, discussed leadership transitions, and expressed positive feedback regarding Mike Henkel's transition to Pioneer. Updates from CSBA:
        i. Legislative Action Week scheduled for March 17–19 and CSBA advocacy efforts related to Proposition 98 and statewide school funding
        ii. BUSD Board members shared the District's "Raise The Base!" funding analysis with county school board members, noting strong interest in the data, distribution of the report to attendees, awareness of the dedicated website, and requests for a future presentation from Superintendent Roth.
        iii. Upcoming EDCSBA awards dinner on March 23
        iv. Upcoming EDCSBA meeting on May 4 featuring a presentation on El Dorado County Office of Education services to school districts
    - Board Member Yoffie reported on attending the LCAP/Budget Advisory Committee meeting with Board Member Masten, highlighting presentations by staff on the District's fiscal outlook and the "Raise The Base!" initiative,

and noting appreciation from committee members for the administration's transparency and efforts to support employees and address financial challenges.

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 - January 21, 2026
2. Personnel Update - February 4, 2026
3. Approval of Overnight Field Trip(s) for 2026/2027:
    - Oak Meadow/BUMI, Sly Park Outdoor Education (November 2-6, 2026)
4. Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSP) 2025-2026 *(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 Hanson-Smith motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.
Board Member Yoffie seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 5-0.

XIV. 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 -** The Board will discuss the recently released draft environmental impact report and traffic study that pertains to the construction of a Costco warehouse and gas station adjacent to the Oak Meadow and BUMI school site

(David Roth, Ph.D., Superintendent)

Superintendent Roth reported on the proposed Costco development and related draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which the District has been monitoring for some time. He summarized a recent community engagement opportunity held at Oak Meadow, attended by parents, County staff, environmental consultants, and Costco representatives, where community members raised concerns regarding the proximity of the Costco gas station and Costco warehouse to Oak Meadow, including increased traffic, air quality, safety, and overall impacts on students. Superintendent Roth noted that the EIR is in draft form and that the District has an opportunity to submit questions and feedback to the County for consideration prior to finalization, emphasizing the importance of addressing impacts specifically as they relate to Oak Meadow.

Board Discussion: Significant concerns regarding the placement of a gas station and a large commercial development adjacent to Oak Meadow Elementary School, particularly regarding traffic, air quality, safety, and noise, were discussed. Board members emphasized that the draft EIR does not sufficiently analyze impacts through the lens of a school as a sensitive receptor and identified gaps and unanswered questions in the report. The Board affirmed that the District's role is to advocate for student and staff safety, and discussed compiling a focused list of EIR-based questions to submit to the County. Direction was given to designated Board Member Jon Yoffie to work with staff to develop questions for review and possible Board consideration at a future meeting.

Public Comment:

1) Jennifer Yoder

2. **ACTION -** Board Acceptance of the Annual Audit Report ending June 30, 2025 *(report linked)*

(Mike Henkel, Director of Fiscal Services)

Mike Henkel, Director of Fiscal Services, reported on the District's annual independent audit and stated that the audit resulted in a clean report with no findings, no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies, and unmodified opinions across all audit areas, including financial statements, internal controls, and federal and state programs. He noted that audited financial figures matched the previously approved unaudited actuals, with only required GASB-related accounting entries. Every opinion that is expressed is unmodified, meaning the highest level of certification you can receive. Mr. Henkel asked the Board to approve acceptance of the annual audit report.

Mr. Henkel also thanked his staff for helping to make the District run so smoothly and thanked the Board for his 7 years of serving in Buckeye Union.

Superintendent Roth, Ms. McHaney, and Board members discussed the positive audit results and commended staff for their work and professionalism. Board

members acknowledged Mr. Henkel's contributions to the District, expressed appreciation for his service, and offered support for Dana Rizzuto as she transitions into the role of Director of Fiscal Services.

Board Member Yoffie motioned to approve the Annual Audit Report ending June 30, 2025, as presented.
Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 5-0.

3. **DISCUSSION** - 2025/2026 Mid-Year Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Update and Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Budget Overview *(reports linked HERE)*
    - Buckeye Union School District
    - Valley View Charter Montessori
    - Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Charter School

    (David Roth, Ph.D., Superintendent)

    Superintendent reported on the Mid-Year Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), noting that the report was included in the Board packet and highlighting positive progress across the District. He shared that i-Ready mathematics and reading growth metrics show strong student growth to date, and that continued community engagement efforts remain in place, expressing confidence that the District will finish the year in a strong position.

    Public Comment: None

4. **ACTION -** Approval of Suggested Revisions to Buckeye Union Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws/Exhibits (**second** 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. The Board may approve the policies as presented or bring them back for an additional reading at a subsequent meeting.

    Ms. McHaney also reminded the Board that this item represents the second reading and that, aside from board-suggested revisions to the following, the policies were identical to those presented at the first reading.
    - Regulation 3515: Campus Security
    - Regulation 3515.4: Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage

    Board Discussion: Asked clarifying questions regarding the process and revisions and indicated no additional concerns.

    Board Member Masten motioned to approve the BUSD Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws, as presented.

Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 5-0.

5. **ACTION -** Approval of Suggested Revisions to Buckeye Union Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws/Exhibits (**first** reading) - *November 2025 CSBA Policy Updates* *(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. The Board may approve the policies as presented or bring them back for an additional reading at a subsequent meeting.

Board Discussion: Board members discussed the policy updates and agreed to postpone action until the March 4, 2026, meeting so trustees would have additional time to thoroughly review the proposed changes.

XV. NEXT MEETING

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

- ***BOARD* - EDCSBA Annual Awards** - Monday, March 23, 2026

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Seal stated that this meeting stands adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Board Member Yoffie motioned to adjourn.
Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

Approval Date:_____

By: _____ By: _____
Melissa Keyzer, 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.

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.