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, March 4, 2026

~~Closed Session – 6:30 p.m.~~ CANCELED

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_dZ1QrgdSRsSMNgNqMQI-xA

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 7:00 p.m.

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

~~III. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION~~

~~1. **ACTION -** Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Govt. Code § 54957):~~

~~Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employee(s):~~

~~○ Resolution **#26-10**~~

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

~~V. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS~~

VI. FLAG SALUTE

Board President Seal led the flag salute.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS AND MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF SHELLEY SNYDER, THIRD GRADE TEACHER, BUCKEYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(David Roth, Ph.D. Superintendent)

Superintendent Roth shared remarks in remembrance of Shelley Snyder, a third grade teacher at Buckeye Elementary School who served the school community for over 20 years. He noted that he, the Board, and others had just returned from a community vigil held at Buckeye Elementary where students spoke about how much Mrs. Snyder meant to them and the strong connections they had with her as their teacher. Superintendent Roth reflected on her dedication to the Buckeye community, her passion for teaching, and the lasting impact she had on students, staff, and families.

Both Superintendent Roth and Board President Seal acknowledged the profound loss to the District and asked those present to keep Ms. Snyder's family, including her two sons, as well as the Buckeye staff and students, in their thoughts. The Board and audience then observed a moment of silence in her memory.

VIII. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Scott Masten, Ph.D.

IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

X. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

1. Valley View Middle School Student Presentation
    - Students: Wyatt Saura, 8th grade President
      Anisha Dominic, 6th grade Vice President
    - Students from Valley View Middle School leadership provided an update on recent school activities, including a Valentine's Day candy gram fundraiser in which over 90 candy grams were sold and leadership distributed Jolly Rancher lollipops to students. They also reported on the recent 8th grade field trip to Aptos and Natural Bridges State Beach, where students participated in field studies, hikes, and tide pool exploration. Additional updates included Valley View's Battle of the Books team earning second place and recent middle school athletics highlights, including the 7th grade boys basketball team winning the championship and the start of the boys volleyball season.

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

Public Comment: None

XI. 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:

1. Amy Frith (email 2/10/26)

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

Public comment closed at 7:09 p.m.

XII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Employees of the Year: Rolling Hills Middle School
    - Classified Employee of the Year: Danielle VanderVeen, Administrative Assistant
        i. Sean Gallagher, Rolling Hills Assistant Principal, congratulated Danielle and stated that she consistently goes above and beyond in the front office, supporting attendance processes, scheduling, and daily operations while creating a welcoming and supportive environment for students, families, and staff.

ii. Superintendent Roth presented Danielle with a certificate and stated that her calm, hardworking presence in the busy school office and her ability to multitask and support the entire school community make a meaningful impact at Rolling Hills.

- Certificated Employee of the Year: Britni Miller, Teacher
  i. Debbie Bowers, Rolling Hills Principal, congratulated Britni and stated that in her two years at Rolling Hills she has made a significant impact in the Special Day Class program by creating a supportive classroom environment, advocating for students with complex learning needs, and fostering strong academic and social-emotional growth.
  ii. Superintendent Roth presented Britni with a certificate and stated that she brings enthusiasm, care, and dedication to a critical special education role, noting the District is fortunate to have her serving students and families at Rolling Hills.

(Debbie Bowers, Principal)

2. Oak Meadow Elementary School Principal Presentation

(Amy Pirkl, Principal)

Amy Pirkl, Oak Meadow Elementary School Principal, presented the above-linked presentation to the Board which included information on the school's mission of supporting the whole child; student enrollment and demographics; school activities such as Walk to School Day, PTO-sponsored events including the Harvest Festival, student leadership and spirit days, cross-country and basketball programs, and the school garden. She also highlighted assemblies and guest speakers, the 5th grade outdoor education trip to Sly Park, PBIS recognition programs, and student performance data showing strong results in English Language Arts, mathematics, and science, along with improvements in chronic absenteeism and low suspension rates.

Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and congratulated Oak Meadow staff on the positive student outcomes and strong school programs. One Board member commented on Oak Meadow's long-standing connection to the community and noted the campus holds a special place in the District's history.

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

XIII. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report: David Roth, Ph.D.
   - Along with Rolling Hills Principal, Debbie Bowers, participated in two days of visioning work hosted by the local high school district. The sessions focused on defining how schools can prepare students to be "future ready" and identifying the desired profile of a graduate/learner when students leave the K–12 system. Superintendent Roth noted he was pleased to see the

high school district engaging in this work and emphasized the importance of schools continuing to evolve to keep pace with changes in the world so students are well prepared for the future.

2. Association Reports:
    - Buckeye Teachers Association (BTA) - None
        i. Superintendent Roth reported appreciation to the Buckeye Teachers Association (BTA) for being the first teachers' bargaining unit to support the District's "Raise the Base" advocacy effort, noting the importance of partnering with teachers and other districts to advocate for increased base funding for public schools.
    - California School Employees Association (CSEA) - None
3. Enrollment Report: Jackie McHaney
    - Ms. McHaney reported that there are currently 4,220 students enrolled in our District, a decrease of 4 students from the previous report.
4. Reports and Requests by Board Members
    - Board Member Hanson-Smith shared a historical recollection of the Oak Meadow Elementary groundbreaking, noting that Board members participated in a ceremonial first shovel of dirt with commemorative golden shovels and hard hats, reflecting on the early construction of the school.

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

Public Comment: None

XIV. 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 - February 4, 2026
2. Declaration of Surplus
    - Rolling Hills - January 26, 2026
3. Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaint - Ending January 2026
4. Investment Portfolio Report - Quarter Ending December 31, 2025
    - Memo from Treasurer-Tax Collector to Depositors to County Investment Pool
    - Memo from Treasury Quantitative Specialist to Treasurer-Tax Collector
    - El Dorado County Pooled Investment Portfolio Reports (summary)
    - El Dorado County Pooled Investment Portfolio Reports (detail)
5. Ratify the Filing of Notice of Completion for the Rolling Hills Middle School Kitchen Remodel and Addition Project
6. Employee Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) *(report linked)*
7. Employee Heat Illness Prevention Plan *(report linked)*
8. Summary of Warrants: January 1-31, 2026 *(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 Keyzer seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

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 -** Proposed Costco Development: District Response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

(David Roth, Ph.D. Superintendent)

Superintendent Roth reported on the District's response to the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Costco warehouse and gas station planned near Oak Meadow Elementary School. He noted the project has raised concerns among the District and community members regarding potential impacts to the school environment. Superintendent Roth shared that Costco and County representatives hosted a public information meeting at Oak Meadow where community members were able to ask questions about the draft EIR. He also explained that the District has prepared a draft response focusing specifically on issues related to the health and safety of students and staff, which will be submitted as part of the formal review process.

Board Member Yoffie reported on the review of the draft EIR and the preparation of the District's written response. He explained the purpose of the District's letter is to address specific concerns identified in the report, particularly those affecting Oak Meadow Elementary School, such as environmental and health considerations. He outlined the next steps in the process, including review by the Planning Commission, potential appeals that could move the matter to the County Board of Supervisors, and the District's request that the County further analyze potential alternatives, including relocating the gas station closer to the freeway or moving the project into the nearby business park.

<u>Board Discussion:</u>
Board members thanked Jon for his work reviewing the report and drafting the District's response. Board members expressed concern about locating a large retail development and gas station near a school, while acknowledging that the property has long been zoned for large-scale retail. Board members also discussed the importance of community engagement, noting that public input and advocacy may influence how the County evaluates the project and its potential impacts on the school community. The item was continued for further consideration at the *March 18 Board meeting.*

2. **ACTION -** Authorization to Post Bidding Documents for the New Kindergarten Playground at Buckeye Elementary Project

(Brian McCahon, Director of Facilities)

Brian McCahon reported on the Phase 2 portion of the new kindergarten playground project at Buckeye Elementary School and asked the Board to approve authorizing staff to post bidding documents for the project. He explained that EDCOE previously funded the architectural design and playground structures, but the District must complete the remaining work, which includes removing and replacing aging concrete in the kindergarten play area to address drainage issues, deteriorated surfaces, and safety concerns. Mr. McCahon noted the bid opening is planned for March 31, with the contract expected to return to the Board for award at the April 8 meeting, and estimated the project cost to be approximately $175,000–$200,000.

Board Discussion:
Board members asked about the anticipated project cost and discussed the need to address long-standing drainage problems that cause water pooling and icy conditions in the winter. Mr. McCahon explained that the existing concrete design includes raised sections that create drainage challenges and that the project will regrade and level the area to improve accessibility and safety for kindergarten students and specialized programs that utilize the space. Board members expressed support for the improvements.

Board Member Yoffie motioned to approve the Authorization to Post Bidding Documents for the New Kindergarten Playground at Buckeye Elementary Project, as presented.
Board Member Keyzer seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

3. **ACTION -** Consideration/Approval of Shared Contract/Reduced Workload Requests for 2026/2027: 60%/40% Leave of Absences

(Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

Ms. McHaney reported on a request for a 60/40 job share arrangement for two kindergarten teachers for the 2026/2027 school year and asked the Board to approve the job share and the corresponding leaves of absence. Ms. McHaney explained that Ms. Gray and Ms. Estenson, kindergarten teachers, requested the arrangement, with each maintaining their full-time status through approved leaves of absence for the portion of their assignment not worked. Ms. McHaney noted the teachers have experience working together, have coordinated their schedule, and received the principal's recommendation for approval.

Board Member Hanson-Smith motioned to approve the Shared Contract/Reduced Workload Requests for 2026/2027: 60%/40% Leave of Absences, as presented.
Board Member Keyzer seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

4. **ACTION -** Approve Offering Golden Handshake Early Retirements to Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Staff Members

(Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

Ms. McHaney reported on the annual Golden Handshake early retirement incentive for classified employees and asked the Board to approve opening the Golden Handshake window from May 1, 2026, through August 3, 2026. Ms. McHaney explained that the incentive is provided under the CSEA bargaining agreement and allows eligible employees to retire early if calculations through CalPERS demonstrate a cost savings to the District. Ms. McHaney noted that once approved by the Board, the proposal must also be reviewed and approved by the El Dorado County Office of Education, which audits the calculations before final implementation.

Board Member Yoffie motioned to approve Offering Golden Handshake Early Retirements to Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Staff Members, as presented.
Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

5. **ACTION -** 2026 Nomination for CSBA Delegate Assembly, Sub Region 6-C

(David Roth, Ph.D. Superintendent)

Superintendent Roth reported on the annual CSBA Delegate Assembly nomination for Subregion 6-C and asked the Board to approve submitting a nomination for a representative. He noted that Misty DiVittorio has been serving in the role and that the Board could choose to nominate her again, nominate another candidate, or submit no nomination.

Board Discussion:
Board members expressed support for Misty diVittorio's continued service and noted she has well represented the Districts from El Dorado County in the past.

Board Member Hanson-Smith motioned to approve the 2026 Nomination for CSBA Delegate Assembly, Sub Region 6-C, as Misty diVittorio, as presented.
Board Member Yoffie seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

6. **ACTION -** Approval of Suggested Revisions to Buckeye Union Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws/Exhibits (**second** reading)

March/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. *This is a second reading for this group of policies.*

Board Discussion:
Board members indicated they had reviewed the packet and noted that the policies were straightforward with no concerns raised.

Board Member Keyzer motioned to approve the second reading of the Suggested Revisions to Buckeye Union Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws/Exhibits, as presented.
Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

7. **ACTION -** Approval of Suggested Revisions to Buckeye Union Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws/Exhibits (**first** reading)
January 2026 *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. *This is a first reading for this group of policies.*

Board Discussion:
Concerns about the language in the policy, expressing discomfort with portions of the document that appeared restrictive toward federal immigration "ICE" enforcement and questioning whether the policy could place staff in a difficult position when interacting with federal officers.

Ms. McHaney clarified that the policy reflects requirements under state law and is intended to establish procedures while ensuring staff do not obstruct law enforcement. It was also explained that site administrators would contact the District office for direction if such a situation arose.

Board members agreed additional time was needed to review the policy, and the item was continued for further consideration at the *March 18 Board meeting.*

XVI. NEXT MEETING

- Regular Board Meeting
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
  @ Buckeye Union School District - VIA Zoom and in-person

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

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Seal stated that this meeting stands adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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

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.