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, April 8, 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_dAWMQH1YRWmDSdL5HLvxLw

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 7:00 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Rolling Hills Middle School student led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Kirk Seal, Board President

Due to the absence of Board President Seal, Board Clerk Keyzer served as Acting President. Board Member Yoffie was selected to serve as Acting Clerk for the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Hanson-Smith moved to approve the Agenda, as presented.
Board Member Yoffie seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Motion carried 4-0.

V. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

1. Rolling Hills Middle School Placerville Elks Americanism Essay Contest Winner, Rivaan Tanneru

   Rivaan Tanneru presented his award-winning essay focused on the meaning of service, emphasizing community involvement, responsibility, and the impact of small acts of kindness. His message highlighted that serving one's country can be demonstrated through everyday actions that support others and improve the community.

   Board members congratulated the student and commended his representation of the district.

2. Rolling Hills Middle School Student Presentation
    - Students: William Parsley, President
      Rivaan Tanneru, Secretary

Students reported on school activities: spirit days, student council leadership, fundraising events, assemblies, and campus activities.

Student Council representatives William Parsley and Rivaan Tanneru shared highlights including:

- Monthly themed spirit days and school-wide participation
- Fundraising efforts for leukemia and lymphoma through "Light the Night" activities
- Student vs. teacher dodgeball events
- Recognition assemblies celebrating student achievement
- Unified basketball tournament
- Chinese New Year celebration
- March Madness pep rally
- Student theater production
- Educational field trips

Students reflected on a successful school year filled with engagement, leadership, and school spirit.

Board Discussion:
Board members expressed appreciation for the students' leadership, organization of activities, and positive school culture.

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:

1. Dr. Pete Khooshabeh (email 3/23/26)

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

Public comment closed at 7:14 p.m.

VII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Employees of the Year: Silva Valley Elementary School
    - Classified Employee of the Year: Caitlin Brooks, Administrative Assistant
        i. Brandon Beadle, Principal, congratulated Caitlin as the classified employee of the year and stated she has demonstrated strong organizational skills, supports attendance efforts, and creates a welcoming and calm office environment.
        ii. Superintendent Roth presented Caitlin with a certificate and commended her positive impact on school operations and culture.
    - Certificated Employee of the Year: Cori Alameda, Teacher
        i. Brandon Beadle, Principal, congratulated Cori as the certificated employee of the year and stated she is a dedicated educator, instructional leader, and active contributor to school programs and student success.
        ii. Superintendent Roth presented Cori with a certificate and recognized her leadership, commitment, and contributions beyond the classroom.

(Brandon Beadle, Principal)

2. Nutrition Services Presentation

    Laura Knight reported on Nutrition Services operations, including:

    - Introduction of fresh, locally sourced foods and farm-to-school partnerships
    - Elimination of artificial dyes in compliance with upcoming legislation
    - Expansion of menu options and student taste-testing initiatives
    - Overview of staffing, meal production, and service across school sites
    - Future planning aligned with state and federal nutrition guidelines

    Board Discussion:
    Board members expressed appreciation for the quality of meals, innovation in menu development, and focus on student health and nutrition.

(Laura Knight, Director of Food Services)

3. Rolling Hills Middle School Principal Presentation

    Debbie Bowers, Principal, and Sean Gallagher, Assistant Principal, presented the above-linked presentation to the Board which included information on student achievement, school culture, and program highlights.

They shared that:

- Rolling Hills continues to demonstrate strong academic performance, with growth in English Language Arts, mathematics, and science, even during curriculum pilot implementation.
- Staff maintain a focus on continuous improvement, with teachers collaborating to increase student outcomes across all grade levels and subgroups.
- The school offers a wide range of student engagement opportunities, including clubs, athletics, leadership activities, and campus events that promote a positive school culture.
- Programs such as "Learn Something New Day," mentor programs, and community-connected activities support student engagement and attendance.
- The school has implemented strategies to improve attendance, including incentives and student-led initiatives, with a goal of reducing chronic absenteeism below 5%.
- Positive behavior systems and recognition programs are used to build a supportive campus climate, while maintaining accountability when discipline is necessary.
- Students are engaged in meaningful learning experiences, including project-based work such as student research on local issues.
- The school was recognized as a California Distinguished School, reflecting strong academic outcomes and overall program success.

They emphasized the importance of school culture, collaboration, and student engagement in driving both academic success and student well-being.

<u>Board Discussion:</u>

- Commended the school's high academic performance and continued growth
- Acknowledged the impact of attendance on student outcomes and recognition programs
- Expressed appreciation for the school's strong culture and wide range of student opportunities

Board members congratulated Rolling Hills on being named a California Distinguished School.

(Debbie Bowers, Principal)

4. Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Principal Presentation

Principal Zhai presented the above-linked presentation to the Board which included information on the BUMI program's continued growth, instructional model, and student outcomes.

He shared that:

- The program continues to demonstrate growth and strong student outcomes, with projected enrollment growth from approximately 42 students at inception to nearly 280 students in the upcoming school year.
- BUMI provides a dual-language instructional model, beginning with a strong Mandarin emphasis in early grades and transitioning to a more balanced Mandarin-English approach in upper elementary and middle school.
- The program is expanding to Oak Ridge High School, where students will have opportunities to continue Mandarin studies through advanced coursework and potential dual enrollment.
- A majority of students do not speak Mandarin at home, yet are successfully developing biliteracy skills across subject areas.
- The program serves a high percentage of students from outside district boundaries, reflecting strong interest and demand.
- Students participate in cultural experiences and community engagement activities, including Lunar New Year celebrations, field trips, and competitions.
- Academic performance data shows strong outcomes, including students performing well above standard in English Language Arts and mathematics.
- The program maintains high attendance rates and low suspension rates, supported by a focus on positive behavior systems and strong communication with families.

Principal Zhai emphasized the importance of partnerships with families, staff, and the district in supporting student success and maintaining high academic and language development standards.

Board Discussion:

- Asked about factors contributing to the program's high academic performance & discussed the role of family engagement and extended learning support outside of school

The Principal noted that strong family involvement, student engagement, and research-based instructional strategies contribute to the program's success.

Board members expressed appreciation for the program's growth, outcomes, and contributions to the district.

(Lu Zhai, Principal)

5. Curriculum and Instruction Updates and I-day Overview

Rachelle Ball, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the above-linked presentation to the Board reporting on curriculum updates, instructional initiatives, and the March 16 I-day professional learning.

She shared that:

- The March 16 I-day provided site-based professional learning led by principals, with a focus on state assessment preparation, instructional planning, and continued work on learning goals and success criteria.
- Teachers utilized tools such as Content Explorer to analyze assessment questions, support reteaching, and prioritize instruction in the weeks leading up to testing.
- Feedback from staff indicated strong appreciation for collaboration time, particularly opportunities to plan with colleagues and engage in site-based work.
- Teachers expressed interest in additional support in areas including behavior strategies, writing instruction, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education.
- The district is currently conducting curriculum pilots:
    - At the middle school level, two English Language Arts programs are being evaluated, both showing increased student engagement and collaboration.
    - At the elementary level, the Magnetic Literacy program integrates reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar into a unified instructional approach, with positive feedback from both teachers and students.
- A timeline for curriculum adoption was outlined, including pilot completion, committee review, public review, and final Board recommendation in May.

She emphasized that overall feedback indicates strong student engagement and improved instructional opportunities, with progress being made toward enhancing curriculum and learning outcomes.

Board Discussion:

- Differences between curriculum programs, including support for differentiated instruction.
- The role and timing of the IMAC in the adoption process.
- Board members expressed appreciation for the depth of instructional work occurring across the district and recognized the positive impact on student learning.

(Rachelle Ball, Director of Curriculum and Instruction)

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

VIII. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report: David Roth, Ph.D.
    - The Buckeye Union leadership team nominated Doug Shupe as the district's El Dorado County Administrator of the Year and noted he will be recognized at an upcoming celebration.
    - Expressed appreciation to the Board for supporting attendance at the school business officials conference, where a presentation was given on the *Raise the Base* funding advocacy effort to increase awareness of underfunding issues affecting districts like Buckeye Union.
    - Noted that the *Raise the Base* message is gaining attention statewide and referenced media interest in the issue.
    - Highlighted the district's recent Heritage Festival, including participation by Miranda Fisher's second grade students, who performed patriotic songs.
    - Reported on Blue Oak's Career Day, organized by Julie Hughes, which gave students exposure to a variety of careers through community presenters, including a farrier, heavy equipment operator, plumber, and fire department personnel.
    - Shared that Rolling Hills recently presented the drama production *The Day the Internet Died* and noted that student talent shows and other end-of-year activities are contributing to a positive and exciting close to the school year across the district.
2. Association Reports:
    - Buckeye Teachers Association (BTA) - Amy Gargani, representative from BTA, reported on advocacy related to the *Raise the Base* initiative and statewide school funding concerns. She shared that she discussed local underfunding issues with CTA Region 2 leaders and CTA President David Goldberg and encouraged continued attention to the issue.
    - 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 4 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).

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 - March 18, 2026
2. EDCOE District County Services Agreement (CSA): Speech Services for 2025-2026, amendment
3. Donations to School - Silva Valley Elementary
    - $1,000 John and Kathleen Baker
4. Summary of Warrants (2025-2026): March 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 moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.
Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

X. PUBLIC HEARING/DISCUSSION

1. **DISCUSSION -** Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Charter Renewal

   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 Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Charter School by teachers employed by the school district and BUMI, other employees of the school district and BUMI, and parents.

   Copies of the submitted Charter may be inspected at: Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Charter Renewal *(report linked)*

   Conduct of Hearing:

   a. Staff Report:
      - Ms. McHaney reported that the District is conducting the required public hearing to consider the level of support for the BUMI Charter Renewal, including input from teachers, staff, and parents.

   b. Open Public Hearing:
      - Acting Board President Keyzer opened the public hearing at 8:37 p.m.

   c. Public Testimony/Comment:
      - None
      - Public Comment closed at 8:37 p.m.

   d. Public Hearing closed at 8:37 p.m.

   e. Board Discussion: None

   (Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

2. **ACTION** - Approve the Renewal Request **(Resolution #26-11)** of the Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Charter Renewal for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031 to serve up to a maximum of 500 students in grades Transitional Kindergarten through 8th Grade

   Copies of the submitted Charter may be inspected at: Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Charter Renewal & Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Staff Report *(reports linked)*

   Conduct of Hearing:

   a. Staff Report:
      - Ms. McHaney further reported on the Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) Charter Renewal request, including the proposed five-year term beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031, and asked the Board to approve. Ms. McHaney reported that the BUMI program continues to demonstrate strong growth and success, and she commended Principal Zhai for his leadership and the program's positive outcomes for students.

   b. Open Public Hearing:
      - Acting Board President Keyzer opened the public hearing at 8:38 p.m.

   c. Public Testimony/Comment:
      - None
      - Public Comment closed at 8:38 p.m.

   d. Public Hearing closed at 8:38 p.m

   e. Board Discussion and Vote:
      - Board Discussion: Board members indicated support for the continuation of the program and its benefits to students and families.
      - Board Member Hanson-Smith moved to approve Resolution #26-11 for the Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion Charter Renewal, as presented. Board Member Yoffie seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

   (Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

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 -** Authorization to Accept Bids and Enter into Contract with the Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder for the New Kindergarten Playground at Buckeye Elementary Project

   Ms. McHaney reported on the project to construct a new kindergarten playground at Buckeye Elementary, including the bid process and recommendation to award

the contract to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, and asked the Board to approve.

Board Member Hanson-Smith moved to approve the authorization to accept bids and enter into contract for the project, as presented.
Board Member Masten seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

Board Discussion:
Board members expressed support for improving facilities and enhancing student play spaces.

~~(Brian McCahon, Director of Facilities)~~

2. **ACTION -** 2026 Certification of Signatures Revision

   Superintendent Roth reported on the annual update to authorized district signatures and asked the Board to approve the revision to remove Mike Henkel and add Dana Rizzuto.

   Board Member Hanson-Smith moved to approve the 2026 Certification of Signatures Revision, as presented.
   Board Member Masten seconded the motion.
   Public Comment: None
   Motion carried 4-0.

   (David Roth, Ph.D. Superintendent)

3. **ACTION -** Approval of Suggested Revisions to Buckeye Union Board Policies/Regulations/Bylaws/Exhibits (**third** reading)
   **January 2026 CSBA Policy Updates*

   Ms. McHaney reminded the Board that CSBA periodically publishes suggested changes to align policies with updates in law. This item represented a third reading of the January 2026 CSBA policy updates.

   Board Discussion:
   Board members indicated they had reviewed the policies and would like to bring this item back for a fourth reading when all Board members are present.

   No action was taken.

   (Jackie McHaney, Asst. Superintendent)

4. **ACTION -** Adopt Resolutions **No. 26-12, 26-13, and 26-14** recognizing employee appreciation days/weeks

Superintendent Roth reported on the resolutions recognizing employee appreciation days and weeks and asked the Board to adopt the resolutions.

Board Member Yoffie moved to adopt Resolutions No. 26-12, 26-13, and 26-14, as presented.
Board Member Hanson-Smith seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Motion carried 4-0.

Board Discussion:
Board members expressed appreciation for staff contributions across the district.

(David Roth, Ph.D., Superintendent)

XII. NEXT MEETING

- Regular Board Meeting
- Wednesday, May 6, 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 8:51 p.m.

Board Member Masten moved 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.