

ADOPTED MINUTES
El Dorado Union High School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Board Meeting
March 10, 2026

Submit to
Board _____

I. CLOSED SESSION

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Board President Brooke Van Komen in the El Dorado High School Multipurpose Room.

As there were no requests to address the Board, Mrs. Van Komen closed this portion of the meeting and the Board adjourned for Closed Session discussion on the following agenda items (GC 54957.7, 54954.5):

- A. Discuss Actions for certificated and Classified Personnel Listed in the Consent Agenda Related to Personnel Action (GC 54954.5, 54957)
- B. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment/Resignation (GC22714; 44929;44929.21; 44934; 44949; 44951; 44953; 44954; 44955; 45192; 44195; 87488)
- C. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Agency Negotiators for the Board are Deputy Superintendent Tony DeVille and Assistant Superintendent Robert Whittenberg) to Discuss with the Board Represented Employees: Discussion Related to Proposals from CSEA (GC 3547 {a})
- D. Conference With Labor Negotiators (Agency Negotiators for the Board are Deputy Superintendent Tony DeVille, Assistant Superintendent Leslie Redkey, and Assistant Superintendent Robert Whittenberg) to Discuss with the Board Represented Employees: Discussion Related to Proposals from Faculty Association (GC 3547 {a})
- E. Superintendent: Goals/ Objectives/ Evaluation

* Any action will be taken in Open Session. All appropriate actions will be taken to preserve the confidentiality and legal rights to privacy of the students. (EC 35146, 48918[c])

II. OPEN SESSION

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

The Board reconvened Open Session at 5:30 p.m. in the El Dorado High School Multipurpose Room.

1. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senior Director Chuck Palmer

2. Attendance

Board Members

David J. Del Rio
Brooke B. Van Komen
Jessica K. Rodgers
Lori M. Veerkamp
Timothy M. Cary

D.O. Staff

Mike Kuhlman, Superintendent/Secretary to the Board
Tony DeVille, Deputy Superintendent
Robert Whittenberg, Assistant Superintendent
Leslie Redkey, Assistant Superintendent
Pam Bartlett, Senior Director
Chuck Palmer, Senior Director

Julianne Pereira, Executive Assistant to
the Superintendent

Student Board Member
Agamya Rao

Association Representatives
Teri Whiting
Eric Larsen

3. Requests to change the agenda and approval of agenda.

Mrs. Veerkamp moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Rodgers seconded. Motion carried (5-0)

Cary: Aye
Del Rio: Aye
Rodgers: Aye
Van Komen: Aye
Veerkamp: Aye

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Cary moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Veerkamp seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Cary: Aye
Del Rio: Aye
Rodgers: Aye
Van Komen: Aye
Veerkamp: Aye

1. Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2026 Board Meeting
2. Approval of Commercial Warrants Report (copy for viewing available at District Office)
3. Approval of Routine Certificated Personnel Action
4. Approval of Routine Classified Personnel Action
5. Approval/Ratification of Various Contracts 2/2/26-3/1/26
6. Controlled Substance and Alcohol Policy for School Bus Drivers (DOT Compliance Program)
7. EDUHSD/Pollock Pines Driver Training Contract 2025-26
8. Transportation Service Agreement with Motherlode Union School District (Addendum)
9. Resolution 2025/26-15 Authorizing Designated Agents to Act as Custodian of Agency Funds
10. Pacific Crest Academy out-of-state conference request: 2026 NCHE Conference, Montgomery, AL, March 26-28, 2026
11. Oak Ridge High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: Boys Volleyball Tournament, San Jose, CA, April 10-11, 2026
12. Ponderosa High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: Track and Field Meet, Arcadia, CA, April 9–12, 2026

13. Ponderosa High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: CSF College Visit, Santa Barbara, CA, April 9–11, 2026
14. El Dorado High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Riverside, CA, April 22-26, 2026
15. Oak Ridge High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: Forestry Challenge Championship, Pinecrest, CA, April 22-24, 2026
16. Union Mine High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: FFA Career Development Event, Fresno, CA, April 17–18, 2026
17. Union Mine High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: FFA State Finals Field Day, San Luis Obispo, CA, April 30–May 3, 2026
18. EDUHSD Overnight Instructional Trip Request: First California Northern State Robotics Championship, Daly City, CA, April 9-12, 2026
19. Ponderosa High School Overnight Instructional Trip: Mock Trial State Competition, Oakland, CA, March 20–22, 2026
20. Ponderosa High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: California State Speech and Debate Championships, Union City, CA, April 17-19, 2026
21. Oak Ridge High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: Men's Golf Tournament, Pebble Beach, CA, April 8-10, 2026
22. El Dorado High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR, April 24-27, 2026
23. Oak Ridge High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: California State Speech and Debate Championships, Union City, CA, April 17-19, 2026
24. Oak Ridge High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: Academic Decathlon State Championships, Santa Clara, CA, March 19-22, 2026
25. Ponderosa High School Overnight Instructional Trip Request: PHS Choir Spring Trip, Los Angeles area, CA, April 9–12, 2026

C. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Reports from Student Representatives: El Dorado, Oak Ridge, Ponderosa, and Union Mine High Schools and Alternative Schools/Programs

El Dorado High School Representative, Zach Cross, reported on student activities.

Oak Ridge High School representative, Cadence Murdoch, reported on student activities.

Ponderosa High School representative, Cassie Wallin, reported on student activities.

Union Mine High School representative, Brandon Crow, reported on student activities.

Alternative School representative, Jayden Lemming, reported on student activities.

2. Teaching and Learning: Recognizing CTE Culinary

Assistant Superintendent Leslie Redkey recognized the district's CTE culinary programs and the culinary teachers in attendance. She shared feedback from school sites highlighting the engaging and safe classroom environments created within the programs.

The culinary courses provide hands-on learning experiences where students develop creativity, responsibility, problem-solving skills, and teamwork. Students also showcase their talents through regional and state competitions and take pride in their work.

Ms. Redkey noted that the programs foster supportive, student-centered classrooms where students feel seen, supported, and valued while gaining real-world skills and confidence for future success.

3. Classified Recognition: Transition Specialists/Business

Senior Director of Student Success Pam Bartlett introduced the district's three Transition Specialists: Mary Prather, Michelle Haakenson, and Kerri Yanagihara. She explained that their role is to help secure real employment opportunities for students by meeting individually with them, assessing their interests and skills, and identifying appropriate placements with local employers.

The Transition Specialists work closely with guidance counselors, organize community field trips, and support students in pursuing postsecondary goals, including college and career pathways. Their work includes building relationships with community partners and providing individualized support to help position students and their families for success after high school.

Ms. Bartlett also recognized Andrew and Cynthia Fong, owners of Grocery Outlet in Cameron Park, for their outstanding partnership in supporting students. She shared that the Fongs go above and beyond in mentoring and training students, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing school, family, and extracurricular activities. They also review student progress forms and provide ongoing support despite their busy schedules.

Mr. Fong noted that the quality of students referred through the program has been remarkable and credited Michelle Haakenson for carefully vetting and preparing students. Grocery Outlet currently employs seven Ponderosa High School students and has hired every student who has participated in the program.

4. Fall Sports Recognition

Senior Director Chuck Palmer invited Oak Ridge High School Athletic Director and Health Teacher Eric Cavalier to the podium to recognize several athletic accomplishments.

Mr. Cavalier introduced the Oak Ridge cheer squad and their coach, who won their league, the CIF State Championship, and a National Championship in Florida against 57 teams in their division. He also congratulated Coach Clark and the Oak Ridge girls tennis team on their successful season.

Ponderosa High School Coach Alex LaBass highlighted the boys and girls cross country teams. The girls team finished as section runner-up and placed 16th at the state meet, with two individual medalists placing second and third. The boys team achieved their goal of becoming section champions and placed eighth overall at the state meet. She also thanked the coaching staff and assistant coaches for their support.

El Dorado High School Athletic Director Danielle Andrade shared that the girls cross country team qualified for the state meet and maintained a high combined GPA. She introduced Coach “Peanut,” who thanked the Board for their continued support of athletics.

Mr. Palmer also recognized Danielle Andrade, in her fourth year at El Dorado High School, for being named CIF 2026 Rookie of the Year.

Principal Liz Sisson commended Ms. Andrade for her passion, leadership, and dedication to supporting student-athletes.

D. INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (GC54954.3)

1. Faculty Association Leadership Comments

Eric Larsen, Faculty Association President, shared reflections on the impact teachers can have on students’ lives, noting that educators played an important role in shaping his own path and inspiring him to become a teacher. He encouraged continued efforts to support and retain quality teachers.

2. California School Employees Association Comments

Teri Whiting, Chapter President for Classified Employees, shared reflections on the positive influence both teachers and classified staff had on her while growing up. She expressed concern about the potential replacement of positions through technology and noted regional salary comparisons related to classified employee compensation. She also expressed appreciation for being included in the Portrait of a Graduate session and shared that there was helpful discussion related to the LCAP.

3. Public Comments

Kyle Fujitsubo – Kyle Fujitsubo commented regarding negotiations.

David Conrad commented regarding negotiations and the role of teachers in supporting students.

Heather Freer commented regarding negotiations and shared student perspectives about teachers.

Kevin Khouri commented regarding rising healthcare costs.

Erin Doubek commented regarding Faculty Association negotiations and benefits.

Cassie Barton commented regarding student discipline and documentation practices.

Howard Jencks commented regarding negotiations and healthcare discussions.

Quinn Linkhart commented regarding workload and compensation.

Molly Smith commented regarding salary increases.

Lisa Bertram commented regarding the impact teachers have on students.

Christy Bergin commented regarding salary increases.

Jessica Owens commented regarding the cost of living in California.

Shaun Haley commented regarding negotiations.

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Enrollment Update (Discussion)

Superintendent Kuhlman shared current enrollment numbers, noting the district is 79 students below the SchoolWorks projected enrollment. He also reported that enrollment decreased by 11 students from the previous month.

2. Emergency School Closure Days (Discussion)

Superintendent Kuhlman discussed the recent significant snowfall that impacted Union Mine High School, El Dorado High School, and Independence High School. Due to four days of school closures, the district is currently required to add two instructional days after the end of the school year to make up the missed time following graduation, though the district is hopeful those days will be granted a J-13 Waiver.

3. LCAP Special Study Session – March 24, 2026 (Discussion)

Superintendent Kuhlman announced an LCAP Special Study Session scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in the board room to allow the Board to review and discuss the LCAP in greater depth and help shape its direction moving forward.

F. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Early College Program Update (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Leslie Redkey provided an update on the break-even point for applications received. She reported that the program did not meet the required application threshold, and administration is recommending not moving forward with the program at this time. She noted that the grant funds can instead be redirected to support dual enrollment and CCAP opportunities across the district, expanding college access for students through a more sustainable model.

Mr. Del Rio moved to approve the recommendation to not pursue the Early College Program at this time. Mrs. Veerkamp seconded. Motion carried (4-0)

Cary:	<u>Abstain – Not present for this vote</u>
Del Rio:	<u>Aye</u>
Rodgers:	<u>Aye</u>
Van Komen:	<u>Aye</u>
Veerkamp:	<u>Aye</u>

G. BUSINESS SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Draft District Policy Guidelines Presentation (Discussion)

Assistant Superintendent Bob Whittenberg shared an overview of the committee's goals and coalition objectives related to the topic. He explained that the committee was organized into subgroups, including teacher-only and student-only groups, to gather focused input. He also reviewed key dates and next steps, with the goal of bringing a final recommendation to the Board for approval on June 9.

Board members discussed the challenges of distinguishing objective expectations from subjective interpretation, particularly as it relates to student use of emerging technologies. The importance of providing clear and consistent guidance for students and staff across the district was noted, while also recognizing the need to teach students how to use these tools responsibly and appropriately.

Ms. Rodgers thanked Mr. Whittenberg for coordinating the committee and shared feedback on the draft document, noting the importance of aligning the work with the district's broader learner profile and values. She suggested the committee may benefit from additional time to further refine the document before moving forward.

Superintendent Kuhlman expressed appreciation for the work completed thus far and the thoughtful feedback shared during the discussion.

2. Public Hearing and Approval for a Student Transportation Plan for the 2025-26 School Year (Action)

Mrs. Van Komen opened the meeting for public comment, there being no comments, the public hearing was closed and Mrs. Rodgers moved to approve the Student Transportation Plan. Mrs. Veerkamp seconded. Motion carried (5-0)

Cary: Aye
Del Rio: Aye
Rodgers: Aye
Van Komen: Aye
Veerkamp: Aye

3. Second Interim Budget Report (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Bob Whittenberg reviewed the revised multi-year projections, COLA, and the expenditures and obligations those funds are intended to support. He also reviewed daily attendance figures, one-time funds, and related expenditures.

During the discussion, Ms. Van Komen asked for clarification on the district's reserve balance for the record. Kandace explained that the 29% figure reflects the ending fund balance, which include both unrestricted and restricted funds. She clarified that when restricted funds are excluded, the unrestricted reserve is approximately 22%. She also noted that the statewide average reserve level for California high school districts is 26.13%. It was further noted that the multi-year projections presented did not include any salary increases currently under negotiation with the bargaining units.

Ms. Van Komen also referenced a communication distributed that day which cited a 29% reserve figure. She expressed concern that the figure could be misleading if understood to represent true

reserves, since it is based on the ending fund balance and includes restricted funds. She emphasized the importance of clearly distinguishing between ending fund balance and unrestrictive reserves in district communications.

Mrs. Rodgers moved to approve the second interim budget report. Mrs. Veerkamp seconded. Motion carried (5-0)

Cary: Aye

Del Rio: Aye

Rodgers: Aye

Van Komen: Aye

Veerkamp: Aye

4. Transportation JPA Study (Discussion)

Assistant Superintendent Bob Whittenberg introduced Ryan Hahn, who presented information about a potential study to evaluate whether a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) model could support long-term sustainability for student transportation services in the district and neighboring districts.

Mr. Hahn shared his background in transportation and discussed his work helping districts explore collaborative transportation models. He explained that the purpose of the study is not driven by a current service issue, but by long-term sustainability and the potential benefits of shared resources among districts.

He described the proposed study process, including Phase One to assess district needs and determine whether forming a JPA would be beneficial. He noted that shared services could allow participating districts to collaborate on driver training, student management support, and operational costs within a structured financial model. He also reviewed the study fees associated with the initial phases and noted that the presentation was intended to provide an overview of the process.

During discussion, questions were raised regarding potential participation by additional districts, employee considerations, and governance structures if a JPA were pursued. It was noted that participation and staffing arrangements would require further evaluation and negotiation as part of any future consideration. The goal of exploring this model would be to maximize efficiency and direct more resources toward classroom instruction.

H. HUMAN RESOURCES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

I. STUDENT SERVICES AND INNOVATION – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

J. OTHER – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. California School Boards Association Election for the Association Delegate Assembly (Sub-Region 6-C), Term April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2028 (Action)

Mrs. Rodgers moved to approve the vote for incumbent candidate. Mr. Del Rio seconded.
Motion carried (5-0)

Cary: Aye
Del Rio: Aye
Rodgers: Aye
Van Komen: Aye
Veerkamp: Aye

2. El Dorado County School Boards Association Awards Announcement (Discussion)

Superintendent Kuhlman shared the individuals and organizations who will be recognized at the upcoming EDCSBA Awards. Ms. Rodgers noted that this year's event will highlight several student programs across the district, including floral design, culinary, and woodshop, which will contribute to elements of the awards. She shared that the event will have a stronger student-centered focus.

K. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY BOARD AND CABINET, IF NEEDED

Superintendent Kuhlman reflected on the importance of keeping students at the center of the district's work and invited Deputy Superintendent Tony DeVille to share about a classroom visit earlier that day. Mr. DeVille described observing a social science class where students presented and engaged in thoughtful discussion, asking and answering questions and making connections between historical events and current issues.

Ms. Veerkamp thanked Principal Sisson and the El Dorado High School staff for hosting the meeting.

L. CLOSED SESSION

M. OPEN SESSION

N. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mrs. Van Komen adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Mike Kuhlman
Secretary to the Board of Trustees