

BUCKEYE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
6:30 p.m.

“BUCKEYE – WE EDUCATE FOR SUCCESS.”

VISION STATEMENT

The Buckeye Local School District unifies individuals, communities and resources to create a **WORLD CLASS LEARNING COMMUNITY** that gives ALL students the opportunity to be successful in **THEIR** future.

GOALS

The Buckeye Local Board of Education has established the following goals:

1. The board of education will achieve excellence in learner-focused governance.
2. The board of education will conduct efficient and effective meetings.
3. The board of education will increase community and staff trust and satisfaction.

This meeting is a meeting of the board of education in public for the purpose of conducting the school district's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda. Please complete a public participation form and submit it to the board president prior to the start of the meeting.

Board Policy # 0165.1, Item B

Buckeye Local Board of Education
Shannon Pike, President
Stephanie Patriarco, Vice President
Gregory Kocjancic
Chad Miller
Roman Vencill

Mr. Patrick Colucci
Superintendent

Mrs. Kassandra Brand
Treasurer

**BUCKEYE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**
Wednesday, February 25, 2026

1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call of Members

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

C. Meditation

D. Pledge of Allegiance

E. Communications/Special Reports

1) Buckeye's January Students of the Month

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Ashtabula County YMCA
- Kids Only Learning Center
- Applebee's (Ashtabula)
- CompTech PCS
- Glotzbecker's Service Center
- Hoffmans Pharmacy
- Infield Chiropractic
- Alana and Chad Miller
- Melaragno HVAC
- Ringer Wholesale Imprints, Inc.
- Steak 'n Shake (Ashtabula)
- The Kendall Foundation
- Thomas Fence Company

Congratulations to the following students:

- Hailey Bugaj, 10th grade, Edgewood High School
- David Ogren, 8th grade, Braden Middle School
- Payton Waid, 1st grade, Kingsville Elementary School
- Harper Hinterleiter, 1st grade, Ridgeview Elementary School

2) Engineering Update – Scott Hoffman, School FIRM

3) Administrative Presentation – Kristi Feather, Kingsville Elementary Principal

F. Public Participation Relative to Agenda Items (Bylaw 0169.1) & the Following:

Please complete a public participation form and submit it to the board president prior to the start of the meeting. We welcome your comments and/or questions during this time. Statements shall be limited to three (3) minutes. Please keep comments brief and to the point. Do not reflect adversely on the political or economic view, ethnic background, character or motives of any individual.

G. Correspondence

2. Treasurer's Report

Reports & Recommendations:

It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the BOE approve the following items as presented in 2A – 2M:

A. Approve the January 13, 2026 BOE Organizational and Regular meeting minutes as presented to the board on February 13, 2026.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

B. Approve bills paid in January and the financial reports as presented to the board on February 13, 2026.

C. Amended Appropriations

Approve the Amended Appropriations for FY26, as presented in **Exhibit A**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

D. Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources

Authorize the Treasurer to request an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources from the County Auditor.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

E. Revised Financial Forecast

Approve the revised financial forecast, as presented in **Exhibit B**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

F. March 2026 Regular Board Meeting Change in Date

Approve the change in date for the March regular board meeting to March 24, 2026.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

G. Tax Rates

Adopt the resolution to accept the tax amounts and rates as determined by the County Budget Commission and authorize the necessary tax levies and certify them to the County Auditor, as presented in **Exhibit C**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

H. Creation of Funds

Authorize the Treasurer to create the following funds and to establish necessary receipt and appropriation accounts for such funds:

- 499-9026 Ohio School Bus Safety Grant Fund
- 022-9001 Unclaimed Funds Agency Fund

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

I. College Credit Plus (CCP) Agreement

Stark State College - Approve the College Credit Plus Partnership Agreement between Stark State College and Buckeye Local Schools to offer college level courses to Buckeye Local School District students for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented in **Exhibit D**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

J. OSC Cooperative School Bus Bids

Adopt the resolution in **Exhibit E** to receive bids for the purchase of one (1) 72 passenger unitized conventional school bus chassis and bodies.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

K. School Firm Kingsville Elementary ADA Compliance Proposal

Accept the proposal from School Firm for professional services related to the Kingsville Elementary ADA Compliance Upgrades project, as presented in **Exhibit F**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

L. School Firm Edgewood High School Electrical Infrastructure Upgrades Proposal

Accept the proposal from School Firm for professional services related to the Edgewood High School Electrical Infrastructure Upgrades project, as presented in **Exhibit G**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

M. Signature Health Additional Counseling Services

Approve the agreement between Signature Health, Inc. and Buckeye Local Schools for individual counseling, individual case management, and group services across the district from the period of 2/1/26 through 5/31/26, as presented in **Exhibit H**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

3. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Reports & Recommendations

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the BOE approve the following items as presented in 3A – 3E:

A. Board Policies and Guidelines - First Reading

Approve the following board policies as presented to the board on December 11, 2025:

Vol. 44, No.1 – August 2025

- po5410
- po7540.02
- po7540.04

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

B. OHSAA Agreement – 2026-2027 School Year

Approve the OHSAA Resolution for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented in **Exhibit I**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

C. 3rd Grade Paper-Pencil Testing Resolution for 2026-2027 SY

Approve a resolution to administer the 3rd-grade state assessments using paper-and-pencil tests for the 2026–2027 school year, as presented in **Exhibit J**.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

D. EHS Spring Choir Trip

Approve the field trip for the Edgewood High School Choir to Orlando, Florida, March 20 through March 25, 2027.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

E. Accept Gifts

- 1) Accept a donation from Kassi and Jake Brand of (1) Learning Resources Math Balance in the amount of \$26.74 for the Buckeye Gifted Program.
- 2) Accept a donation from the Ashtabula Pentecostal Church of God of 29 shirts for Edgewood's Sources of Strength group with a value of \$375.05.
- 3) Accept a donation from Alana and Chad Miller in the amount of \$85.38 for Student of the Month.

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill

4. Personnel

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following Personnel items as presented in 4A-4J (See items 4K – 4L as separate voting items):

Certified Staff:

A. Certified – Tutor

Justin Szuba, Home Instruction Tutor, for no more than 5 hours per week, hourly tutor rate of \$27.06 per hour, effective February 17, 2026.

B. Certified – Resignation

- 1) Tonya Belnap-Tiscenko, Title I Tutor at Ridgeview Elementary, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- 2) McKenzie Wallace, National Honor Society Advisor, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

C. Certified – Extracurricular and Special Fee Assignment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Yrs Exp</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Christina Fischer	Head Girls Golf	2026-27	8/01/26	4	\$4,379.76
Benjamin Frable	Head Boys Golf	2026-27	8/01/26	1	\$3,981.60
Sara Howard	Asst. 7/8 Boys Tennis	2025-26	3/09/26	0	\$1,546.24
Renee Mattson	Head Girls Tennis	2026-27	8/01/26	7+	\$6,370.56
Dennis Mitchell	Athletic Manager	2026-27	8/01/26	7+	\$5,972.40
Kaytee Shimek	Head Girls Soccer	2026-27	8/01/26	3	\$6,370.56

D. SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION TO APPOINT CERTIFIED / LICENSED NON-EMPLOYEE(S) TO SUPPLEMENTAL POSITION(S)

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Local Board of Education strives to appoint qualified certified/licensed employees to fulfill supplemental contracts; and

WHEREAS, the board has offered the following supplemental position(s) to certified/licensed employee(s) of the district; and

WHEREAS, no such employee(s) qualified to fill the position(s) has accepted it; and

WHEREAS, the position(s) was then advertised to certified/licensed individual(s) who are not employed by the board; and

WHEREAS, the board has deemed the following certified/licensed non-employee(s) as qualified to fill the supplemental position(s);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buckeye Local Board of Education, in compliance with O.R.C. 3313.53(D), awards the following supplemental contract(s), for the school year indicated below, to the following person(s):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Yrs Exp</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Olajuwon Cooper	Head Football	2026-27	8/01/26	7+	\$7,166.88
Olajuwon Cooper	Weight Room Coord.	2026-27	8/01/26	7+	\$4,777.92
Steven Hill	Head Boys/Girls Cross Country	2026-27	8/01/26	7+	\$6,370.56

E. SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION TO APPOINT NON-CERTIFIED / NON-LICENSED NON-EMPLOYEE(S) TO SUPPLEMENTAL POSITION(S)

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Local Board of Education strives to appoint qualified certified/licensed employees to fulfill supplemental contracts; and

WHEREAS, the board has offered the following supplemental position(s) to certified/licensed employee(s) of the district; and

WHEREAS, no such employee(s) qualified to fill the position(s) has accepted it; and

WHEREAS, the position(s) was then advertised to certified/licensed individual(s) who are not employed by the board; and

WHEREAS, no such person(s) qualified to fill the position(s) has accepted it; and

WHEREAS, the board has deemed the following non-licensed/non-certified individuals identified below as qualified to fill the supplemental position(s);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buckeye Local Board of Education, in compliance with O.R.C. 3313.53(D), awards the following supplemental contract(s), for the school year indicated below, to the following person(s):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Yrs Exp</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caleb Merendino	Head Boys Soccer	2026-27	8/01/26	5	\$6,768.72

Classified Staff:

F. Classified – Appointment

Cherie Matthews, Cafeteria Service Personnel at Braden Middle School, 4 hours per day, Step 1 of 25, \$16.98 per hour, effective February 9, 2026.

G. Classified – Retirement

Josie Wright, Administrative Assistant at Edgewood High School, effective March 1, 2026. Ms. Wright has served the district for 35 years.

H. Classified – Substitutes

- 1) Kristal Goetz – SMEA, LA
- 2) Robert Hayes – Courier
- 3) Emily Palumbo – Student Worker

I. Classified– Extracurricular Pupil Activity Contract

Maggie Kister, Fall Soccer Coordinator, \$500.00, effective August 01, 2026.

J. Permanent Substitute Teacher

The following individual will be employed up to 4 days per week at \$160 per day as a district-wide substitute teacher for the 2025-26 school year:

Nichole David – Braden Middle School

 Kocjancic **Miller** **Patriarco** **Pike** **Vencill**

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following Personnel items as presented in 4K-4L:

K. Non-Certified/Non-Employees – Extracurricular and Special Fee Assignments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Yrs Exp</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Kyra Vencill	Head Volleyball	2026-27	8/01/26	7+	\$7,166.88

 Kocjancic **Miller** **Patriarco** **Pike** **Vencill**

L. One-Year Temporary Non-Bachelor’s Substitute Teaching License 2025-26 School Year

In accordance with the passage of Senate Bill 1 of the 134th General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Education has been granted the authority to issue a one-time, non-renewable One-Year Temporary Non-Bachelor’s Substitute Teaching License for the 2025-26 school year to applicants who do not hold a post-secondary degree but meet the employing school or district’s educational requirements with board approval.

McKenna Vencill

 Kocjancic **Miller** **Patriarco** **Pike** **Vencill**

All personnel appointments are contingent upon possessing or obtaining the appropriate certification/licensure, validation, and/or permit as required by law and board policy as well as satisfactory physical examination, criminal background check and/or current CPR training where applicable.

5. Visitor Participation Relative to New Items (non-agenda items)

Please complete a public participation form and submit it to the board president prior to the start of the meeting. Please limit your comments to three minutes or less.

6. Other Business – FYI

7. Adjournment

___Kocjancic ___Miller ___ Patriarco ___Pike ___Vencill