

ADOPTED MINUTES  
El Dorado Union High School District  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Board Meeting  
August 12, 2025

Submit to  
Board \_\_\_\_\_

**A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Board President David Del Rio in the El Dorado Union High School District Board Room

As there were no requests to address the Board, Mr. Del Rio 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. Superintendent: Goals and Objectives

\* 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])

- 2. The Board reconvened Open Session at 5:34 p.m. in the El Dorado Union High School District Board Room.

- 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Mrs. Rodgers.

4. Attendance

Board Members

David J. Del Rio  
Brooke B. Van Komen  
Lori M. Veerkamp  
Jessica K. Rodgers  
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  
Kelly Parker, Substitute Exec. Asst. to Superintendent

Student Board Member

Agamyia Rao

Association Representatives

Teri Whiting  
Eric Larsen

Mr. Palmer introduced the 2025-2026 Student Board Member, Agamyia Rao, a senior at Ponderosa High School. Miss Rao was unanimously selected by her peers to serve in this role. She has already completed over 20 units of study at Folsom Lake College, maintains a 4.4 GPA, has competed in National Speech and Debate Championships and holds a student's pilot license and she pursues her goal of becoming an astronaut. Mr. Palmer expressed enthusiasm for her contribution to the Board.

The Board of Trustees warmly welcomed Miss Rao to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Cary encouraged her to actively share questions and opinions on agenda items, emphasizing the value of her voice and perspective.

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

Mrs. Veerkamp moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Rodgers seconded.

Motion carried (5-0).

<b>Del Rio:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Van Komen:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Veerkamp:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Rodgers:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Cary:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>(Rao):</b>	<u>Aye</u>

6. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Veerkamp moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Van Komen seconded.

Motion carried (5-0).

<b>Del Rio:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Van Komen:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Veerkamp:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Rodgers:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Cary:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>(Rao):</b>	<u>Aye</u>

1. Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2025 Board Meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2025 Board Meeting
3. Approval of Commercial Warrants Report (copy for viewing available at District Office)
4. Approval of Routine Certificated Personnel Action
5. Approval of Routine Classified Personnel Action
6. Approval/Ratification of Various Contracts 6-2-25 through 8-1-25
7. Donations Received
8. Approve and Adopt Updated Organizational Resolutions and Certification of Signatures for 2025-2026.
9. Annual Review of Board Policy 3430, Investing.
10. Proposed Revision to AR 5121: Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement
11. Permission to Dispose of Obsolete/Unusable Furniture, Equipment and Textbooks.
12. Agreement by and Between the El Dorado Union High School District and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office
13. Agreement by and Between the El Dorado Union High School District and the El Dorado County Fire Protection District (2025-2026)

14. Ponderosa High School Overnight Instructional Trip; FFA Chapter Officer Retreat, Dillon Beach, CA July 27-30, 2025
15. Union Mine High School Overnight Instructional Trip; Basketball Camp, College of the Redwoods, Eureka, CA July 18-20, 2025
16. Pacific Crest Academy Overnight Instructional Trip; Watershed Education Summit, Union Valley Reservoir, Wench Creek, CA September 24-27, 2025.
17. Union Mine High School Overnight Instructional Trip; Watershed Education Summit, Union Valley Reservoir, Wench Creek, CA September 24-27, 2025.

**B. SUPERINTENDENT'S OPENING UPDATES**

Mr. Kuhlman reported on the information he presented to the Principals and staff at the Kick-Off Breakfast held at Ponderosa High School August 4, 2025. He noted that last year's areas of focus- Safety, Budget and Financing remain priorities, but he proposed three new areas of emphasis for the coming year:

1. Portrait of a Graduate, asking the question, "Who do we want our students to become?"
2. Purpose Statement: which is a modification of a mission statement.
3. Strategic Plan: Development of a written plan for improvement, to be initiated with the Board at the September 23, 2025 study session.

Mr. Kuhlman has invited a colleague, Dr. Doug Domene, former Superintendent of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District to join the study session via Zoom.

He also with the Board a World Economic Forum graph identifying the fastest growing skills needed by 2030. Mr. Kuhlman highlighted that while the District is already addressing several of these skills, additional work remains to prepare students for the demands of the future. The District will need to build its plan based on how we want to see our students graduating.

**C. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

There were no action/discussion items under this session.

**E. INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (GC54954.3)**

1. Faculty Association Leadership Comments

Mr. Eric Larsen, Faculty Association President, expressed enthusiasm for the start of the school year, noting that while the first week has been hectic, students are happy to be back and teachers are working hard. He acknowledged there were some staffing issues that needed to be worked out and appreciated the support of Mr. DeVille in resolving them. Mr. Larsen shared that the Association's three-year contract expired over the summer, and negotiations are expected to begin in September. The focus will include clarifying language in the agreement and addressing all aspects of the contract. He added that the Association is hopeful for more favorable budget news this fall, pending the September financial outlook. He is looking forward to another good year.

## 2. California School Employees Association Comments

Mrs. Teri Whiting, CSEA Chapter President, welcomed student board member Agamy Rao and expressed appreciation to the Board and Cabinet for the Back-to-School event, noting that classified employees enjoy the opportunity to gather together. She also extended thanks to the food services staff for their efforts in providing an excellent breakfast.

Mrs. Whiting shared that classified employees have expressed concerns related to staff reductions, particularly regarding the delivery of supplies and equipment to sites. She acknowledged the challenges caused by a classified employee who became “Missing in Action” over the summer. She thanked the bus drivers who are temporarily filling the needs of the District while recruitment for a new delivery driver is underway. The job posting has closed, interviews are scheduled soon, and the Association looks forward to restoring stability in that position.

The Association will have all contract sections opened. The Association is waiting on 6-10 policy approval and anticipates submitting contract items in September, with negotiations expected to begin in October.

## F. **SUPERINTENDENT’S – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no action/discussion items under this session.

## G. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 1. El Dorado Union High School District 2025 Advanced Placement Results

Mrs. Redkey presented to the Board the results of the 2024-2025 Advanced Placement tests, including a summary of performance across the four comprehensive high schools and districtwide trends for the 2021-2025 testing cycles. Students who enroll and complete an AP course are statistically 3% more likely to attend college, and those who achieve a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam are 5% more likely to graduate from college within four years.

- **El Dorado High:** AP student participation ranged from 162 to 203 students. The percentage of students scoring 3 or higher increased steadily from 61% in 2021 to 81% in 2025.
- **Oak Ridge High:** AP participation remained the largest in the district, with 612 to 795 students. The percentage of students scoring 3 or higher rose from 84% in 2021 to 96% in 2025, consistently the highest among district schools.
- **Ponderosa High:** AP student participation ranged from 270 to 327 students. Scores of 3 or higher improved from 75% in 2021 to 89% in 2025.
- **Union Mine High:** AP participation increased from 104 to 142 students. The percentage of students scoring 3 or higher remained steady, ranging from 73% to 80% during the period.
- In 2024--25, the district administered 3,133 AP exams across multiple subject areas. Overall, 88.57% of exams earned scores of 3 or higher, representing a significant increase from the prior year’s 85.1% and 2023’s 81%. Subjects with particularly strong performance included AP Chemistry (98.77%), AP English Literature (95.79%), AP Calculus BC (95.06%), AP Spanish (91.43%), Precalculus (100%), and AP U.S. Government and Politics (92.37%).

Mr. Kuhlman noted that although the District’s overall enrollment has declined, the percentage of students participating in AP courses has remained steady over the years.

Mrs. Redkey expressed appreciation to the IT Department at Oak Ridge High School for their assistance with administering all AP exams online this year, noting the extraordinary work required to ensure adequate devices and reliable connections were in place.

## 2. Summer School Overview

Mr. Leonhardt, Summer School Principal, has accepted a position as Principal for Vista Del Lago High School. Mrs. Redkey presented the Summer School overview to the Board in his place. The District offered courses in English 1-3, Math (Algebra Foundations, Algebra 1, and Geometry), Social Science (World History), and Science (Earth & Space Science and Biology), with 228 students registered and 173 attending. Of those, 159 students (91%) successfully passed their courses. Forty-two students with IEPs attended, with 40 (95%) passing. The Senior Summer Completion Program enrolled 12 students, 11 of whom graduated.

Historically, EDUHSD offered summer school until 2007–2008, after which it transitioned to an intersession model. One-time COVID funds allowed summer school to return, but these funds will sunset in 2026. Comparative data show declining summer school enrollment alongside steady intersession credit recovery.

Looking ahead, the District will not continue its own summer school program but will provide students with remediation and credit recovery options through Cyber High, Mt. San Antonio College, Silicon Valley High School, Paseo Grande Elev8, and potentially Folsom Lake College. These opportunities, along with intersession, will remain available at no cost to families.

## **H. BUSINESS SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 1. 45-Day Budget Revision

Mr. Whittenberg reported to the Board in compliance with Education Code section 42127(h), the District’s 45-Day Budget review. The District is required to provide public review of budget revisions within 45-days of the Governor signing the State Budget Act, which was enacted June 30, 2025. The District is estimated to receive one-time block grant funding, including approximately \$162,370 for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant and \$1,854,801 for the Student Support and Professional Development Block Grant. These funds will be included in the First Interim Budget.

Mr. Whittenberg explained why California often provides schools with one-time funds instead of ongoing funding, likening it to a “gift card” vs. a “paycheck” strategy. Key reasons for use of one-time funding include revenue volatility from income taxes, the State’s desire to avoid long-term commitments, targeted use for emergency or specific needs (such as learning recovery or technology upgrades), and political or negotiation factors that favor quick, visible funding. Proposition 98 requirements also contribute, with one-time allocations sometimes used to meet annual minimum funding guarantees without permanently raising the base.

While one-time funding allows the State to share windfall revenues cautiously, it creates challenges for schools which may include: funding “cliffs,” short-term focus, inefficient use of resources, budget volatility, and difficulty sustaining staffing or programs.

[Mrs. Veerkamp inquired whether or not the one-time funds are guaranteed or can the state still pull them back. Mr. Whittenberg stated that it was passed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, however we shall see. These are estimates from School Services.]

[Mr. Cary inquired whether the funding timeline had been changed this year, as in past years when funds were shifted to deferrals. Mr. Whittenberg responded that he has not heard of any deferrals this year.]

[Mrs. Van Komen inquired whether the District has had recent communication with state representatives, specifically Assemblyman Joe Patterson and Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, regarding legislative matters. Mr. Whittenberg reported that through involvement with CASBO, he has reached out to Assemblyman Hoover and a meeting is being scheduled to discuss related issues. He noted that no contact has yet been made with the representatives mentioned, but Mrs. Van Komen offered to facilitate those connections. She emphasized that meaningful engagement is needed to support long-term programs and labor relations, rather than relying on short-term solutions such as the “gift card” method, which places the District in a difficult position when working with the unions.]

[Mr. Cary reported that he attended a meeting in May with Representative Patterson. Mr. Patterson is on the Budget Committee. Patterson reported that all Budget Committee meetings were cancelled prior to the adoption of the budget. The budget was done completely by the big three. Nobody else was invited and they passed it without further consideration by committees.]

[Mrs. Rodgers emphasized the importance of educating legislative members outside of education committees on the impacts budget decisions have on school districts. Mr. Whittenberg agreed, noting that CASBO has been working with legislators, including Representative Hoover, to address the extensive reporting requirements placed on districts, such as the LCAP. He reported that CASBO is advocating to consolidate these reports into a more manageable number and that progress is being made.]

## **J. STUDENT SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no action/discussion items under this session.

**F. HUMAN RESOURCES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS****1. Proposal from the Faculty Association and the District Regarding Negotiations for the 2025-2026 and Public Hearing.**

Deputy Superintendent, Tony DeVille, stated that Article 8, Section 3547(a) of the Government Code provides that all initial proposals of exclusive representatives relating to matters within the scope of representation shall be presented at a public meeting and shall be public records, and that meeting and negotiations shall not be done until the public has been informed and has had the opportunity to express itself at a public meeting. Mr. DeVille recommended that within the context of this Code, and due to the expiration of the current contract on June 30, 2025, the Board of Trustees receives the proposal from the Faculty Association and the District for the 2025-2026 school year.

The entire Faculty Association Master Contract is open. Article 8, Section 3547(c) of the Government Code provides that after the public has had the opportunity to express itself, the public-school employer shall, at a meeting which is open to the public, adopt the proposal.

There being no comments from the Board, Mr. Del Rio opened a public hearing on the matter. There being no comments, Mr. Del Rio closed the hearing and called for a motion.

The Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees receive and adopt the 2025-2026 negotiations proposal.

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

<b>Del Rio:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Van Komen:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Veerkamp:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Rodgers:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Cary:</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>(Rao):</b>	<u>Aye</u>

**K. OTHER – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no action/discussion items under this session.

**L. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY BOARD AND CABINET, IF NEEDED**

Mr. Kuhlman: Addressing Mr. Del Rio he stated, “You stole my thunder!” He made the “executive decision” to announce: Covid is over! What he observed at Union Mine and heard from teachers, he has heard at every school site: the freshman came in and there is something very different about them. We are far enough away from that destabilizing time. He is encouraged by the positive feedback is receiving concerning the kids as they have come back to every school site.

Mr. DeVille: The new teacher orientation and lunch went very well. He followed up the orientation with a check-in with each of the nine new teachers after their first week. They all reported that students are excited to be there and they are all looking forward to making a positive contribution to the district.

Mrs. Bartlett: The new teacher orientation was very well done. She enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each of them. Reflecting on summer, Student Success had the extended school year program that overlapped with summer school. The program was a wonderful help to us, with Trish Hardy facilitating the extended school year program. It was fabulous! There were about 35 students a day that showed up with their paraprofessionals staff and Trish. It was a very rewarding number of days. that served as well. Mrs. Bartlett visited Pacific Crest Academy on the first day of school and had a lovely time interacting with the students and staff. They all seemed so happy to be back. She, along with Zoe Samborski, had a meeting with the staff to make sure that all of their students with I.E.P.'s were all set. It truly is a joyous, peaceful place.

Mrs. Bartlett followed up with a visit to Oak Ridge High school, not as peaceful, however, it was beautiful. The sheer numbers coming at you can be a little overwhelming. She also wanted to share with the Board that she walked into an American Government special program class at Ponderosa High School. The teacher was facilitating a conversation about government in their lives. She invited the class to attend a Board meeting to see first hand how local government impacts their life in the community. She hopes the class takes her up on her offer and she can bring them to a Board meeting in the near future.

Mrs. Redkey: Educational Services had over 4500 textbooks that had to be delivered. There were some delivery issues with textbooks over the summer due to the abrupt departure of our delivery driver. Mrs. Redkey commended Carol Pesce, Administrative Assistant in Ed Services, for her stellar organizational skills. She met with Lee Johnson, Lead Warehouse, and developed google documents to streamline the process. She thanked the bus drivers for stepping up and ensuring that the textbooks were all delivered before school started.

Mrs. Redkey was at Ponderosa High School for the first day of school and the energy was phenomenal and the kids were excited, regardless of how tired they may have been, they did not show it. There was so much energy she did not hear the bell ring. By 8:30 campus was cleared and all of the student's were in their classrooms.

Mr. Palmer: Attended Oak Ridge High School for the first day of school. Looking at the incredible data regarding AP exam reported today, it is not surprising. Not only the instructional component, but observing teachers outside their door's greeting students at their door, staff helping freshman displaced trying to find their way, and the personal connections made him feel strong about our organization and who we have working for us. The building of relationships is the reason why we see such great outcomes.

Mr. Whittenberg: Thinking about the first day: Transportation, Nutrition, IT and M & O, if it's quiet this will be a good thing. He got to stand with Liz Sisson and welcome the kids back to El Dorado High School while anxiously waiting for the phone to ring. It was quiet and smooth launch to the new year.

Pam Bartlett spoke about transportation and all of the moving parts that need to happen to make for a successful day. Kudos to Grayson Silva and his team for a great job.

Mike Kuhlman: Thanked Kelly Parker for stepping up and filling in for Julianne Pereira in her absence. Kelly has been supporting both Mr. Whittenberg and Mr. Kuhlman exceptionally.

Ms. Paso: Happy to report that El Dorado High School's 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation was well attended by students and families.

Mr. Cary: He joked that he is not happy that Ponderosa High School is back in session. The Meder Road Grand Prix has begun. With the start of school at Ponderosa High School the traffic has significantly increased on Meder.

Miss Rao: Miss Rao went on two trips this year. One to the National Speech and Debate Finals in Iowa. It was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary which made it very special. The other trip was an Aerospace Engineering program through NSLC hosted at John Hopkins University, in Maryland. Visited many Air Force Bases, was able to see the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope being built. It will be launched in 2027.

Mrs. Rodgers: Welcomed Agamy Rao to the Board and offered support. Reported a great summer highlighted by the birth of her son, and noted her sister has started college, leaving one sibling still in high school.

Mrs. Veerkamp: Welcomed Agamy Rao to the Board and noted she stood out in the interview process. Joined Mr. Kuhlman at El Dorado High School on the first day, complimenting Brandon Page and staff on the excellent condition of the campus. Reported an enjoyable summer with her grandsons and expressed excitement for the new school year.

Mrs. Van Komen: Welcomed Agamy Rao to the Board and congratulated Mrs. Rodgers on the new baby. Reported a great summer with family and noted the energy in the community as students returned to school. Expressed appreciation for the work done over the summer to ensure a smooth start. Attended the Ponderosa High School kick-off for staff, highlighting the positive energy and excitement around the rollout of the "Portrait, Purpose & Plan."

Mr. Del Rio: Noted that his granddaughter, a sophomore at Union Mine High School, joined the yearbook. Reported his special needs grandson successfully transitioned to 6th grade and is doing well. Mentioned he has three grandchildren attending different schools and that a tiny home will be added to their property for his daughter. Shared future plans to travel once his wife retires.

**M. CLOSED SESSION**

This session was not needed

**N. OPEN SESSION**

This session was not needed.

**O. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Mr. Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

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Mike Kuhlman  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees