

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Minutes of Buckeye Local Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Held February 25, 2026 - 6:30 P.M. - Board Room - Braden Middle School

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## REGULAR MEETING

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Shannon Pike, President  
Stephanie Patriarco, Vice President  
Gregory Kocjancic  
Chad Miller

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Roman Vencill

Also present were Superintendent Patrick Colucci and Treasurer Kassandra Brand

### CITIZENS PRESENT

Tracy DeLuca, Joe Gerics, Danyel Ryan, Kristi Feather, Jeff Drake, Tashina Drake, Jaxon Drake, Ashley Nelling, Beth Popely, Shannon Johnston, Giana Varchetto, John Waid, Renee Waid, Bill Anderson, David Ogren, Alyssa Hinterleiter, Harper Hinterleiter, Michael Waid, Kate Waid, Payton Waid, Scott Hoffman, Bob Densic, Steve Kray, Christopher Gillett

### MEDITATION

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 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, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Edgewood High School – Not Present  
David Ogren, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Braden Middle School  
Payton Waid, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Kingsville Elementary School  
Harper Hinterleiter, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Ridgeview Elementary School

2. Engineering Update – Scott Hoffman and Bob Densic, School FIRM
3. Administrative Presentation – Kristi Feather, Kingsville Elementary Principal

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you cards from the families of Stephanie Patriarco and Kelley Loudon were read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Information:**

Financial Forecast

Mrs. Brand, Treasurer, presented the Financial Forecast.

Fiscal Year 2025 State Audit

Mrs. Brand, Treasurer, reviewed the 2025 State Audit. The district received an unmodified clean opinion with no findings for recovery and will receive the Auditor of State Award.

District Support Organizations

District Support Organizations (e.g., booster groups and parent organizations) are required to meet annual compliance requirements in accordance with District Board Policy and guidance from the Ohio Secretary of State, the Ohio Attorney General, and the Internal Revenue Service. Compliance ensures transparency, accountability, and protection of both the District and the organizations.

The District plans to host the Ohio Attorney General's Office this spring for a community presentation regarding charitable organization requirements.

Beginning in January, District Support Organizations will be formally approved annually by the Board of Education at the Organizational Meeting upon verification of compliance. Board approval will be required for affiliated organizations to use District facilities and logos, carry District liability insurance, and conduct fundraising activities on behalf of the schools.

**TREASURER'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**34.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following items:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

Approval of Minutes

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

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**TREASURER'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Financial Reports

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

**35.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following:**

Amended Appropriations

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

**36.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

**37.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following:**

Revised Financial Forecast

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

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**TREASURER’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

**38.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

March 2026 Regular Board Meeting Change in Date

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

**39.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following:**

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**.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

**40.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

**41.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following items:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following:**

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**.

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**TREASURER’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

**42.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

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.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

Mr. Miller asked how many buses have been purchased this year. Mrs. Brand replied that two buses were purchased in the fall and that this bid will be for the FY27 planned bus purchase.

**43.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

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**.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

**44.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following:**

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**.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

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**TREASURER’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

**45.26** It is the recommendation of the Treasurer that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

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**.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**46.26** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

Board Policies and Guidelines – First Reading

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

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- po5410
- po7540.02
- po7540.04

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

**47.26** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following:**

OHSAA Agreement - 2026-2027 School Year

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

- 48.26** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

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**.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

Mr. Miller asked why paper and pencil? Mr. Colucci replied that students using paper and pencil tend to score higher than taking the test on a computer.

- 49.26** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following:**

EHS Spring Choir Trip

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

- 50.26** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following items:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following:**

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.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

Mr. Colucci thanked all donors.

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## PERSONNEL

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following Personnel items:

**51.26 Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following items:**

**Certified Staff:**

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.

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.

Certified – Extracurricular and Special Fee Assignments:

Name	Position	Year	Start Date	Yrs. Exp.	Salary
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

Certified/Non-Employees – Extracurricular and Special Fee Assignments:

**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

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**PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)**

**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):

Name	Position	Year	Start Date	Yrs. Exp.	Salary
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

Non-Certified/Non-Employees - Extracurricular and Special Fee Assignments:

**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):

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

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**PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)**

**Classified Staff:**

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.

Classified – Retirement

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

Classified - Substitutes

Kristal Goetz – SMEA, Library Aide  
 Robert Hayes - Courier  
 Emily Palumbo – Student Worker

Classified – Extracurricular Pupil Activity Contract

Maggie Kister, Fall Soccer Coordinator, \$500.00, effective August 1, 2026.

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 2026-2027 school year:

Nichole David – Braden Middle School

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

Mr. Colucci thanked Ms. Wright for her time and effort here.

**52.26** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following Personnel item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mrs. Patriarco to approve the following item:**

Non-Certified/Non-Employee – 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>
Kyra Vencill	Head Volleyball	2026-27	8/1/26	7+	\$7,166.88

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mrs. Patriarco, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Pike  
 Motion carried

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## PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

- 53.26** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following Personnel item:

**Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the following item:**

### One-Year Temporary Non-Bachelor's Substitute Teaching License 2025-2026 School Year

In accordance with the passage of Senate Bill 1 of the 134<sup>th</sup> 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 2025-2026 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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

*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.*

## VISITOR PARTICIPATION RELATIVE TO NEW ITEMS

None.

## OTHER BUSINESS – FYI

None.

## **54.26** ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kocjancic moved and seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn this regular meeting at 7:44 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Kocjancic, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Patriarco, and Mrs. Pike  
Motion carried

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

SHANNON PIKE  
PRESIDENT

KASSANDRA BRAND  
TREASURER