



Board Meeting Summary / January 2026

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Bear River High School

Bear River High School League Champions: Girls' Volleyball and Girls' Golf Teams were honored by the Board. Girls' Volleyball: Division 5 Section Champions, Undefeated Pioneer Valley League Champions, Division 4 Nor-Cal Semi-Finist. Girls' Golf: Dual match record 12-0, second in each of 2 league tournaments and Co-Champions with the Colfax Lady Falcons.

REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

NJUHSTA Vice President, Lily Gicker praised union leadership for proactive community outreach and reported the bargaining team has been closely monitoring next year's school calendar discussions. She clarified that the earlier start date was intended to prevent imbalance in semesters. She shared that the union would return to bargaining in February, welcomed a new team member and noted member outreach and surveys to gather input on priorities are underway.

Superintendent Dan Frisella provided an update on the 2026-27 school calendar, noting that the district will continue discussions with county and labor partners to balance student and community needs. He reported a productive District Guiding Coalition meeting, including review of instructional rounds data and positive feedback from participants, noting the next steps include developing a consistent process for providing classroom feedback. He recognized January as Board Appreciation Month and thanked trustees for their service. He also shared an update on the Governor's January budget proposal and upcoming attendance at a budget workshop for further analysis.

District Climate Update - Superintendent Dan Frisella updated the Board with a presentation that included online digital safety support for parents and families, anonymous reporting data for November-December 2025 and assertive discipline incident dispositions.

Bear River High School Principal, Chris Roberts provided an update on School Culture and Climate, specific to Bear River High School. The report included emphasis on BR's mission, vision and focus goals. It also included interventions specific to attendance and behavior as well as campus activities, clubs, staff events/support, student recognitions and a summary of athletics.

BOARD REPORTS



Trustee Michael Howe (Student Representative) reported a proactive month of outreach and meetings with district and site leadership focusing on campus safety, school culture and addressing discrimination. He discussed expanding staff resources for conflict intervention, strengthening student "upstander" behavior, and the development of a staff survey on these topics.

Trustee Olivia Pritchett (Area 1) expressed optimism about continuing the district's work into 2026 and voiced support for the Bear River community.

Clerk Wendy Willoughby (Area 2) requested future Board discussion on student representation. She also recommended reviewing and updating certain Board policies to ensure they remain current and provide clearer guidance for consistent responses to community concerns, noting the importance of public policy discussions as a core governance responsibility.

Trustee Kelly Clark (Area 3) shared reflections after attending a varsity boys basketball game, noting the strong school spirit and positive student energy. She emphasized the value of fostering a supportive, positive campus culture so students can build meaningful experiences and lasting memories.

President Andrew Klein (Area 4) did not report.

Vice President Ken Johnson (Area 5) did not report

ITEMS OF INTEREST/ACTION TAKEN

- The SARCs were approved
- The Board accepted donations from the Walton's Grizzly Lodge, Inc., LOP Women's Golf Club, WM Philanthropic West, an anonymous donor, Mike and Cheryl Andes, Bill Dial, AK & CM Jennings Foundation, Eteamssponsor, Inc., William and Marian Ghidotti Foundation, Dale Huber Engineering, Casewood, Andrew Klein, Bank Properties, PayPal Giving Fund, Charities Aid Foundation America, and the Blackbaud Giving Trust.
- The District was awarded \$199,000 for the Antibias Education Grant Program and \$55,670.43 for the 2025-26 Ag CTEIG Grant
- The Sierra TrailBlazers Running for Fitness Scholarship was established
- The Faith in Action Scholarship was established
- The following new/revised courses were approved:
 - Guitar 2 (revision) (9-0)
 - String Orchestra (new) (9-0)
 - Music Appreciation (new) (9-0)
 - Dance 1 (PE) / Beginning Dance (VAPA) (revision) (9-0)
 - Dance 2 (PE) / Intermediate Dance (VAPA) (revision) (9-0)
 - Dance 3 (PE) / Advanced Dance (VAPA) (revision) (9-0)
 - Dance Performance Ensemble (revision) (9-0)
 - Dance Performance Ensemble Honors (new) (9-0)
 - Introduction to Criminal Justice (revision) (9-0)

For details or additional information, please see the full meeting agenda [HERE](#).

The meeting recording can be found [HERE](#) when published.

** This is a summary only, official minutes are approved at the next regular Board meeting.*



NJUHSD
11645 Ridge Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945 530-273-3351

January 2026