

BV proposes central campus

By Glenn Battishill – June 3, 2026

Buckeye Valley held its latest facilities planning meeting last week to discuss a plan to build a new high school within the district.

The meeting was led by Assistant Superintendent Rex Reeder and Superintendent Dr. Ric Stranges and was focused on a plan to develop the area around Buckeye Valley Middle School and Buckeye Valley High School into a central campus that would include a new high school, new fields for athletics and a new bus garage.

Reeder said the goal is to transition the middle school to an intermediate school for grades fourth through sixth; transition the high school to a middle school for seventh and eighth graders; and build a new high school with capacity for 1,200 students. The new high school would be located where the current softball fields are east of the football stadium and would be three stories to make it more energy efficient. The new high school would include academic spaces as well as a number of amenities, including suites for music programs, an auditorium, an aux gym, a new main gym and a new wrestling room.

Reeder said the district wants to remain transparent through the process of planning the proposed central campus.

"I told you all along that I have to be transparent and honest with you," Reeder said to those in attendance. "I want you to know exactly what you're getting, what we're trying to do, and how we're moving forward. There's no surprises in this."

Reeder said there were four principles that served as the foundation for every decision: Safety & Security; Academic Excellence; Opportunities for All; and Fiscal Responsibility.

Reeder laid out that the vision for the central campus is for more than just students. "We have a vision for opportunities for all stakeholders, including our community," Reeder said. "The theme central campus is not just for our students, it's a community. We know we need more facilities for arts, athletics and academics. Why would we talk about bringing the Delaware County (District) Library onsite here? Because we want you to come to campus. Buckeye Valley does not have a town, we need to have somewhere central where you can find things. We don't want you to have to go to Dublin or Delaware."

Reeder said the proposed central campus includes a space where the Delaware County District Library could build a new branch, but he clarified the library would fund the theoretical branch, not the district.

“We’re trying to bring that onsite to help our community,” Reeder said. Reeder added the additional athletic fields would help accommodate the many teams within the district instead of them sharing the small number of current facilities.

“Our parents are here until 10 o’clock at night. That’s got to end,” Reeder said.

Reeder added Stranges will be making a presentation to the BV Board of Education on June 3, and the board will weigh placing a levy on the November ballot to fund the central campus project.

“Time is of the essence,” Reeder said. “Right now is the time we need to talk; we need feedback; we need more people, and honestly, we need a team approach. We need students; we need everybody; we need all-in. We need all of you to help us as we’re moving forward.”

Reeder said the project is estimated to cost \$130 million, and costs will only increase if the district waits on the project. “Right now it’s \$392 per square foot,” Reeder said.

“Why is now so important? The number is as low as you’re going to get. It’s probably four years out to build the building whenever we pass. November 2026, if we go for that, here’s the deal: it will be ready by 2030. If we wait six months, it’ll be ready by 2031 and will cost you \$50 more a square foot. ... This is the lowest you will see this.” Reeder said if there is a levy and it fails in November, the costs of the project rise \$13 million to \$143 million in just six months.

“We’re not stopping,” Reeder said. “If we go in November and don’t pass, we’re coming back in May. We’re not waiting another two years. The need is in your face.”

Stranges said the district is seeking community feedback and wants to involve the entire community, not just families with children.

“We want community input,” Stranges said. “The last time we tried for a levy we had just a small group of hand-picked selected folks to do it. (This time) we put this out to everybody, anybody in the community and school to come help us craft the future of Buckeye Valley. This is our fourth or fifth meeting, and people keep coming. There’s a real interest in shaping the future of Buckeye Valley. There’s a real interest in helping our kids have the best opportunities we can.”

Reflecting on the 2024 \$100 million bond levy that voters voted down in 2024, Stranges said “the transparency wasn’t there.”

“We heard that loud and clear,” he said. “We want to make sure we hit all of our community, not just school folks. I think that’s something we didn’t do last time.”

The board will meet on June 3 at 3:30 p.m.



The proposed plan for a central campus at BV includes relocating and expanding the bus garage and adding several fields and a complex for softball and baseball teams to use in order to be able to accommodate multiple teams and events at the same time.