BUSD Resolution 26-007 in Support of CalSTRS Adopting an Ethical Investing Policy

WHEREAS the CalSTRS board adopted its Statement of Investment Responsibility in 1978 and has committed to vetting the environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks of its investments; and

WHEREAS the 2024 CalSTRS Investment Policy for Mitigating Environmental, Social, and Governance Risks (ESG) calls for consideration of the following in investment decisions:

a. Respect for human rights
b. Respect for civil liberties
c. Respect for cultural and ethnic identities
d. Respect for property rights
e. Respect for political rights
f. War/Conflicts/Acts of Terrorism; and

WHEREAS CalSTRS currently owns billions of dollars in shares and bonds in companies contributing to military occupation and and human rights violations around the world, in violation of its own investment philosophy; and

WHEREAS California Federation of Teachers, the union representing both teacher and classified employees of BUSD, recently passed a resolution in Support of CalSTRS Divestment from Human Rights Violations, Military Occupation, Apartheid and Genocide; and

WHEREAS Alameda County has called for an investment policy that refrains "from investment in harmful industries such as tobacco, fossil fuels, mass incarceration or immigrant detention, and weaponry of any kind, or in companies with a consistent record of direct involvement in severe human rights violations such as slavery and prison labor, war crimes, illegal military occupation, racial segregation, or apartheid."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BUSD calls on CalSTRS to immediately adopt and abide by an updated Ethical Investment Policy Statement that guides CalSTRS to divest from assets and companies that consistently and directly profit from, enable or facilitate mass incarceration or immigrant detention, weaponry of any kind, and artificial intelligence and surveillance technology for military use, or in companies with a consistent record of direct involvement in severe human rights violations, violations of international law, such as slavery and prison labor, war crimes including genocide and ethnic cleansing, illegal military occupation, racial segregation, or apartheid; and

Be it resolved, BUSD calls on CalSTRS to issue an annual public report describing its progress towards aligning investments with the Ethical Investment Policy Statement by identifying holdings to be sold or not renewed; and

Be it further resolved, BUSD will send a copy of this resolution to the CalSTRS Board of Directors in addition to California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Be it finally resolved, the Board directs the Superintendent to post this Resolution on the District website, with appropriate translation, and to distribute copies to both California senators as well as the District's congressional representative.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Berkeley Unified School District this 17th day of September 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

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Jennifer Shanoski
Clerk, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District