

**YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
Yale Junior High Central Office Board Room  
Tuesday, October 1, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Bullard, Hurlburt, French, Hoppe, Butler, McClelland (*Arrived at 6:22 PM*), Johnson

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Kurt Sutton  
Assistant Superintendent Bill Kryscynski  
Business Services Director Beky Silkworth  
Secretary to the Board Nancy Maplethorpe

Others Present: Yale Expositor Reporter Jim Brown, Kathleen Hooper, Dru Runnals, Jennifer & Erick Senkmajer

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion by Hoppe seconded by Hurlburt to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 6                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1                      Motion Carried

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Committee of the Whole meeting minutes - September 3, 2024

2. Regular Board meeting minutes - September 5, 2024

Motion by Butler seconded by French to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Ayes: 6                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1                      Motion Carried

5. Correspondence

Superintendent Sutton read/shared the following correspondence:

- No formal correspondence.  
Superintendent Sutton spoke about the Yale Alumni Reunion held on Saturday which hosted over 290 attendees. The committee presented Mr. Sutton with a check for \$15,000 to be used for student scholarships.

6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sutton read his report which contained the following information:

- Our new bus is currently being built and we hope to have it in our possession before Easter.
- We will be replacing nearly all of the staff's desktop computers over the next several months.
- Each evening, contractors are working through the punch lists at Avoca, Farrell, and Yale Elementary Schools. They are projecting that the punch list items will be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We have received architectural drawings back from Wightman Associates for the parking lot and bus loop repaving. We have also received drawings to establish secure entries that the Building & Grounds Committee will review mid-month.
- Student Count Day is tomorrow (10-2-2024). We presently have 1,757 students enrolled. This exceeds our conservative projection when we began the budgeting process in the spring.
- A BWAC Sportsmanship Summit was held in mid-September in Almont as a few student leaders from each district gathered to talk about the importance of sportsmanship and how it can be further promoted throughout the league. We are planning to make this an annual event, with Richmond hosting next year.
- The Community Foundation has a Youth Advisory Council, which is chaired by Joshua Kriesch and includes Lauren Zink as treasurer. The community foundation is seeking community minded students to join their ranks to make a difference across the county. In Yale, this group funded the makeover of our outdoor eating space at the high school.

7. Public Participation

A. Special Guests – Jennifer Senkmajer – Regional Teacher of the Year for 2023-2024

Mrs. Senkmajer thanked the Board for their support and reviewed how she was awarded the honor of being chosen Regional Teacher of the Year for 2023-2024. In addition, she showed a slide presentation sharing how she implemented her professional development training and added that she was most proud of the legacy project.

B. Agenda Items – None

C. Non-Agenda Items

Dru Runnals applauded Yale High School Custodian Cheryl Herzog for going above and beyond with helping at the alumni event last Saturday.

8. Reports

A. Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Sutton presented/read the Buildings and Grounds report which contained the following:

- Contractors continue working on the punch list items for the elementary schools.
- Purchased a new paint sprayer for our athletic fields.
- Bid documents are currently out for the water softener replacement at the high school, junior high and Yale Elementary.
- Bids documents are also out for the shower partitions at the high school and junior high.
- We've decided to use our own workforce for the installation of the mini splits that are needed for our server rooms.
- Brenner Electric and DTE were able to get the power connected for the scoreboard at the soccer field.

B. Finance

Director Silkworth presented/read her report which contained the following:

- Auditors from Lewis & Knopf, CPA's will attend Thursday's Board meeting to review the district's financial statements, and issue their opinion to you. The Board will be asked to accept the report that evening.
- Fall debt payments are due and the request for approval of the payments will be included with the October invoices.
- Mrs. Silkworth discussed an opportunity for our district to earn more interest by changing the type of accounts our district uses at Tri County bank. By sweeping funds into and out of an investment account every night automatically, the balances earn a higher interest rate than a normal checking or savings account. Additionally, the bank places the invested funds in several other facilities (under their guidance), providing the district with FDIC insurance on the entire balance of the account. An authorization from the Board allowing the district to participate in this program will be on the October agenda for action.

C. Instruction and Personnel

Assistant Superintendent Kryscynski presented the Instruction and Personnel Report (attached) which contained the following:

1. Hiring
  - A. Brian Faille, Yale High School Custodian
2. Resignation
  - A. Shanon Osterland, Elementary Special Education Teacher
3. Recommendations to the Substitute List

Curriculum/Instruction:

- Mr. Kryscynski reviewed a presentation he prepared regarding Yale Public Schools data and Yale students' success compared to other districts.

D. Transportation

Mr. Sutton read the Transportation report (attached) which contained the following:

- Currently fully staffed with one sub driver.
- Bus safety presentations/evacuations are almost completed.
- Bus 14, due to its poor condition, that would have cost the district more for repairs than it was worth, was recently auctioned off.
- The new bus that was ordered is being built and updates will be given on its arrival date.
- Beginning this school year, MDE has added a transportation allocation to help transportation funding for districts across the state. This week is count week for transportation, counting all students riding on all morning routes to school and to TEC along with the mileage each day of those routes.

E. Other - None

9. Items for Board Discussion

A. 2023-2024 Audit Presentation, Lewis & Knopf, P.C. at Thursday's Regular Board Meeting

B. Board Governance Committee

Mr. Bullard reported that the committee had met last month and will meet again this Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM to continue their work on board policies.

C. Board Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Butler reported that the committee met last month and meets again on October 16 to continue discussing projects moving forward and added that the community committee will be starting soon.

D. SCCASB Representative

Mr. Hurlburt said that the committee will meet next Wednesday, October 9.

E. MASB Legislative Liaison

Mr. Johnson reminded members that the MASB Fall Conference is at the end of this month.

F. Purchase of Maintenance Truck

Mr. Sutton recommended another Ford F250 and added that additional items will be needed to prepare the vehicle ready for use.

G. Tri-County Bank Account Update

Board Action at Thursday's Regular meeting.

H. Discussion of School Van

Mr. Sutton stated that we have many opportunities in the district to use a passenger van with small groups and that several other districts use them. Upon contacting the legal department, he was informed that only 11 passengers are allowed in the van and that it would be a requirement that students provide a permission slip. He will follow up with the insurance company and transportation union.

10. Comments from Board Members, Administration

- Mr. Hurlburt reported that the Yale Band played at Central Michigan University last Saturday.
- Mr. Hoppe thanked Mr. Kryscynski for his excellent presentation.
- Mr. Sutton said that on November 1 the Yale staff is taking a field trip to SC4 and other sites in St. Clair County for professional development.
- Mr. Bullard reiterated how much he loves the Alumni Luncheon.

11. Adjournment by Consensus at 7:34 PM.

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MEGHAN BUTLER, SECRETARY  
YALE BOARD OF EDUCATION