



YAKIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT #7
Facilities Assessment Community Team - FACT Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Yakima, Washington

Members present

Adrienne Garner, Amanda Voorhees, Annie Blake, Craig Smith, Frances Logan, Hector Mendez, Jennifer Hernandez, Joy Haughton, Julio Sanchez, Leslie Morris, Noemi Carrasco, Robyn Harris, Stacy Pietsch, Steve Brownlow

Non Voting Members present

Jake Kuper, Kim Newell, Liz Gonzalez , Hector Mendez, Dr. Maria Lucero

WELCOME & Introductions

Jake Kuper welcomed everyone to the FACT meeting. He reiterated the committees focusing on deciding which school to consolidate, the committee will evaluate whether there is a reasonable justification to consolidate a facility.

Meeting Minutes: Hector Mendez moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2025, meeting. Craig Smith seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

Review Budget & Legislative Outcomes

Jake reviewed the School Board Presentation that he presented on April 15, 2025. He highlighted the enrollment and staffing reduction, General fund balance, the 25/26 program reductions, and the current Administrative overhead. See powerpoint for further details.

Jake also reviewed the Legislative updates and how they affect YSD. 1. Operating Budget Status (SB5167), Capital Budget Proposals, Special Education Funding (SB5263), Materials-Supplies-Operating Costs (SB5192), Levy Equalization (HB2049), Pupil Transportation & ALE Adjustments (HB2050/SB5772), and Transition Kindergarten. There were discussions on how they all can impact YSD. See powerpoint for further details.

NEXT STEPS

- **Timeline Review:** Review Key milestones and deadlines for decisions-making and implementation. Jake continued to inform the committee that the consolidation process can take up to a full year. The committee stated that they would like to continue to discuss the consolidation as well as get more information and data in order to make the most informed decision in regards to consolidation. The committee formed groups and came up with some more data that they would like to get from Jake. (See below)

If school is to be consolidated what criteria would be used?

1. Student Demographics and Enrollment

- How many students are bussed in vs. how many are walkers? (Geographic considerations)
- What is the current attendance rate?
- What is the current enrollment trend? (Enrollment has declined by 1,500 students.)
- How many students have been lost to online or alternative learning programs?
- What are the Yakima County Health District birth trends?

2. Facilities and Capacity

- What are the class sizes across schools? (Some schools are at capacity, others at minimal enrollment.)
- What is each school's maximum capacity?
- What will the enrollment and facility use look like after a potential re-boundary?
- Nob Hill is becoming unaffordable for new families.
- Whitney is currently over capacity.
- Garfield may be affected by the trolley track project, which could also impact future bond success.
- There is a large 6th-grade cohort coming, and a \$4.8M project was just approved by City Council.

3. Budget and Financial Implications

- If consolidation occurs, will money be freed up to hire more support staff?
- What is the current budget situation? (Before COVID, there was a \$20M reserve.)
- How will transportation costs be impacted? (Busing expenses will likely increase.)
- Should the district maintain current schools without expanding further for now?
- There is a proposal to raise the license plate tax—three options are under consideration.

4. Programs and Services

- What will Special Education classrooms look like next year?
- Is now a bad time to expand Dual Language programs?

- Ensure that newly enrolled students who live within the Nob Hill boundaries are actually enrolled at Nob Hill.

5. Governance and Decision-Making

- If consolidation is rejected, can Dr. Greene override and still proceed with it?
 - What are the criteria that would be used to determine if a school should be consolidated?
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Summary of Feedback & Key Questions:

- There is a need for clear criteria to guide any consolidation decision.
- Considerations must include geography, enrollment trends, school capacity, and financial impact.
- Equity in program access (e.g., Dual Language, SPED) must be preserved.
- Transparency around authority and decision-making (Dr. Greene's role) is essential.
- Financial implications (support staffing, transportation, budget reserves) must be fully modeled.
- Community and demographic changes should inform future planning (e.g., birth trends, housing affordability).

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next FACT Meeting: 6/4/2025, 6-8 p.m. In-Person at YSD PDC (101 S 6th Ave)