

**YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Pine River Nature Center – Goodells, MI 48027
Thursday, August 7, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Bullard led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a Moment of Silence.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bullard, Hurlburt, Butler, Johnson, Brancaccio
Members Absent: French, McClelland
Also Present: Superintendent Kurt Sutton
Director of Business Services, Beky Silkworth
Secretary to the Board Nancy Maplethorpe
Tara Jordan and Sherrie Kleitch

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Butler seconded by Johnson to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Motion Carried

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Organizational Meeting Minutes - July 1, 2025

B. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - July 1, 2025

C. Executive Session Minutes - July 1, 2025

Motion by Butler seconded by Hurlburt to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 5 Nays: Absent: 2 Motion Carried

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Sutton read/shared the following correspondence:

- Mr. Sutton discussed bond options the Board might consider in the future.
- In addition, he spoke with Representative Green about when districts might see a state budget.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Sutton read/presented his report which contained the following:

- Despite Michigan law requiring our legislators to have a school budget in place by July 1, we still do not know allocations for categorical monies for things like Title I and 31A, which support our at-risk students with academic interventions.
- We will be emphasizing the importance of students being fully 'present' for instruction each day by enforcing that cell phones or personal devices may not be used during the day for all K-8 students.
- Mr. Harmer and Mr. Maniaci have been working hard to add internet access points across the district to improve our WIFI strength in each building. They have also added a significant number of cameras to the interior and exterior of our buildings to eliminate any potential 'blind spots'.
- Our maintenance staff has been working to replace and/or cap our drinking fountains in the classrooms in order to be in compliance with Michigan's Filer First Law. This law states that all consumptive water must be filtered and all non-consumptive water must be labeled or capped. As a result, we have changed our water fountains to a few filtered bottle filling stations in each school. Students may still wash their hands in sinks in the classroom or communal bathrooms, but water that will be consumed must be filtered. Additionally, Avoca Elementary must have an engineered national Sanitation Foundation (NSF) 61 water filtration system to remove contaminants such as iron, magnesium, arsenic, etc. The present system removed these contaminants, but did not meet the NSF 61 standard that the state now requires. While this system is being replaced, we will have portable water coolers for students to use.
- In July the district auctioned off the 2001 Ford Truck, 1980 International Harvester Tractor, and 2013 bus for a profit of \$5,080.

- We have been investigating sending a post card to residents in the City of Yale and the surrounding townships within our district including a QR code/link to our newsletter and an opportunity to provide feedback on what the school district is doing well and what needs to be improved.
- Numerous summer projects are nearing completion as the start of the school year is just a few weeks away. The secure vestibule projects, which require visitors to enter the office when visiting the building, parking lot paving, ADA compliant restroom at Yale Junior High, new flooring in many of our elementary classrooms, district signage, and landscaping projects will be wrapping up right around the first day of school.

Superintendent Sutton read/shared with the Board the Buildings and Grounds and Transportation Reports:

Buildings and Grounds Report:

- The new entry vestibules are nearly completed.
- The plumbing review has been completed from the state for the ADA bathroom. We are hopeful to get a plumbing inspection soon and have the project completed by the start of school.
- The new makeup air unit at the junior high kitchen is scheduled to be delivered and installed soon.
- Martin Family Landscaping has completed the work around the junior high as well as in the island between Yale Elementary and Yale Junior High.
- The junior high parking lot should be finished by next week.

Transportation Report:

- Staffing: We currently have two open route packages; We have posted the jobs to possibly get new drivers in and started as soon as possible.
- Routes: Thank you to all the families that registered their students, we had a great turn out with over five-hundred responses. This definitely helps with being able to have everything mostly prepared for drivers before school starts.
- Drivers: We will have our bid meeting on Wednesday Aug. 13 for the drivers to come in and get their route information and bus assignments.
- Open House: We will have the drivers again this year at a table giving parents route/driver information and pick-up/drop off times.
- The new software has been working great so far. It has been able to pick up more accurate mileage so the driver can be more efficient.
- We are looking forward to a great first day!

8. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- A. Guest: None
- B. Agenda Items: None
- C. Non-Agenda Items: None

9. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A. Treasurer's Report and Monthly Bills in the Amount of **\$1,374,061.23**

Motion by Butler seconded by Hurlburt to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurers Report and approve the monthly bills in the amount of **\$1,374,061.23.**

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt-Yes, Butler-Yes, French-Absent, McClelland-Absent, Johnson-Yes, Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Motion Carried

- Mrs. Silkworth stated that the auditors were here this week and reported that everything went well.
- Mr. Bullard said that he met with an auditor, Mr. Sutton and Mrs. Silkworth and was pleased with the positive experience.
- Both Superintendent Sutton and President Bullard praised Mrs. Silkworth, Mrs. Garafolo, Mrs. Hooper and Mrs. Harmer for their hard work in preparing and navigating the audit process with flying colors and ensuring the district's accuracy, transparency, and compliance.

10. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT – Superintendent Sutton reviewed.**

- A. Hiring
 - 1. Amy Waldhart-Sheldon, Yale High School Custodian
- B. Resignation
 - 1. Candra McKillican, Yale High School Custodian
 - 2. Amanda Ross, Bus Driver
 - 3. Tanya MacDonald, Title I Paraprofessional at Avoca Elementary

- 4. Kylee Stevens, Yale Junior High Paraprofessional
- 5. Jennifer Schultz, Yale Elementary Paraprofessional
- C. Retirement
 - 1. Tanya MacDonald, Avoca Elementary Aide
- D. Recommendations to the Substitute List

Motion by Hurlburt seconded by Butler to approve the Personnel Report as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
 Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt-Yes, Butler-Yes, French-Absent, McClelland-Absent, Johnson-Yes,
 Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Motion Carried

Curriculum/Instruction

- We will continue to focus our PD around developing lessons around the Authentic Learning with Technology (ALT) learning model and providing opportunities for students to apply their learning in unique situations. We will continue our work around developing proficiency tied to our Portrait of a learner.
- Although it does not appear that we will receive our Title II funding this year, we remain committed to holding our grade and department-level meetings to focus on improving instruction, data, and MTSS.
- Per Board Policy 5205, the administrative team spent time at the end of last year and over the summer updating student handbooks. The revised handbooks include a few updates of what we have had in place, along with some additions based on the Thrun handbooks, which match our current board policies.
- Interviews next Monday in hopes of filling our Children’s Center Director position in Emmett, as well as aides to support our GSRP classrooms in Avoca and Emmett. It is expected that all three of our GSRP classrooms will be maxed out at 18 students this year.
- YSSA bid meeting is Wednesday, August 13.

11. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Transportation Director Program Renewal

Motion by Hurlburt seconded by Brancaccio to approve the Transportation Director Program with Capac for the 2025/2026 school year as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
 Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt-Yes, Butler-Yes, French-Absent, McClelland-Absent, Johnson-Yes,
 Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Motion Carried
- B. L-4029 Property Tax Levy 2025 form

Motion by Butler seconded by Johnson to approve the L-4029 Tax Levy millage rate for Operation, Debt and Sinking Fund Millages for the Tax Year 2025 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
 Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt-Yes, Butler-Yes, French-Absent, McClelland-Absent, Johnson-Yes,
 Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Motion Carried
- C. Superintendent Contract

Motion by Bullard seconded by Butler to approve the 2025-2028 Superintendent’s Contract as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
 Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt-Yes, Butler-Yes, French-Absent, McClelland-Absent, Johnson-Yes,
 Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Motion Carried
- D. Dugout Replacement
 - Mr. Sutton had aerial photographs from Google Earth of the existing softball and baseball dugouts and a “Cadillac” proposal, submitted by the coaches, which he presented to the Board. President Bullard instructed Superintendent Sutton to proceed with preparations for circulating quotes for the project.

13. **Comments from Board Members, Administration**

- None

The Board took a brief recess. 6:53 PM

The Board reconvened at 7:07 PM.

E. Board Self-Evaluation Compilation Discussion

The Board reviewed and discussed the Board Self-Evaluation survey.

14. **Adjournment by Consensus: 8:25 PM.**

**Mark Hurlburt, Secretary
Yale Board of Education**