

Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

107 First Street North • Yelm, WA 98597 • (360) 458-1900 • www.ycs.wednet.edu

MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, October 23, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Debbie Edwards, Bill Hauss, Denise Hendrickson, Frank King
Excused - Casey Shaw

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Sofie Miera, Rebecca Rankin, Cali Stein, Ayden Williams

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Holly Ackerman, Erin Bayer, Mark Bowden, Dee Dee Buckingham, Lisa Cadero-Smith, Curtis Cleveringa, Charles Cook, Lisa Crowell, Craig Curry, Kurt Fourre, Becky Fowler, Kendall McNutt, Teri Melone, Shannon Powell, Traci Schultz, Starla Watson, Chris Woods

CALLED TO ORDER

President Denise Hendrickson called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE

Board Recognition

Building Principals recognized the following individuals:

Instructional Excellence Award		
<i>Honoring teachers who elevate student learning through impactful instruction and foster classroom environments of dignity and belonging.</i>		
Elianne Fisher – YHS	Erin Baar – RMS	Philip Arnold - YMS
Jacqueline Gathany – FS	Kayla Mellema – LK	Mylisha Lanegan - MK
Mackenzie Dust – MP	Tabatha Nevy – PR	Jana Holterman - SW
Instructional Support Excellence Award		
<i>Honoring paraeducators who enhance student learning through impactful support and foster classroom environments of dignity and belonging.</i>		
Monica Allen – YHS	Nikita Little – RMS	Sean McKale - YMS
Mary Dewees – FS	Sonja Cox – LK	Kara Ravenscroft Ligan - MK
Jennifer Ryle – MP	Vivian Fulkerson – PR	Diane Neri - SW

Superintendent's Comments

The board received a presentation on enrollment trends in Yelm Community Schools compared to statewide data. The report highlighted the effects of COVID-19 on enrollment patterns, noting initial declines followed by gradual recovery. Yelm's enrollment growth has been slower than the state overall, with notable differences across grade levels. A key slide illustrated that the number of incoming kindergarten students continues to be lower than the number of graduating seniors, signaling a potential long-term decline in overall enrollment. The data will continue to be monitored to guide staffing, budgeting, and future planning decisions.

Dr. Lisa Cadero-Smith presented information on the upcoming Reconsideration of Materials for the district's Comprehensive Sexual Health Education curriculum. A review committee will be formed, including administrators, teachers, parents, and community members. The process will address

curriculum materials at both the middle and high school levels, while the elementary curriculum will move forward through a formal adoption process.

Community Comments

Heather Hadfield presented comments.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED

September 11, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting
 September 25, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting
M/Debbie Edwards; S/ Bill Hauss; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Nicholas Bertoglio	Facilities, Evening Custodian	10/13/2025
Tannah Evans	OSS, BSA	10/14/2025 One Year Only
Kelli Fouts	OSS, BSA	10/20/2025 One Year Only
Esteban Gonzalez	YHS Coach Assistant Girls Wrestling	11/17/2025
Jamie King	MP Paraeducator SPED Program SELF	10/6/2025
Anthony Sexton	Food Service, Cafeteria Worker	10/15/2025
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	Position	Effective Date
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Joshua Findley	Transportation Bus Driver	Resignation 10/8/2025
Averie Ford	YHS Coach Head Bowling	Resignation 10/10/2025
Kevin Forde-Nihipali	YHS Coach Head Boys Soccer	Resignation 9/1/2025
Jennifer Islao	SW Para SPED	Resignation 10/24/2025
STAFFING CHANGES		
Name	From/To	Date
Brenda Zigler	PR to MP	9/10/2025
STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
\$9,047.04		

M/ Bill Hauss; S/ Frank King; Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED

WA Cattlewomen Assoc., YHS FFA..... \$500.00

M/ Frank King; S/ Bill Hauss; Motion carried unanimously.

YCS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ADVANCED ACADEMICS - APPROVED

M/Debbie Edwards; S/ Bill Hauss; Motion carried unanimously.

YCS MULTILINGUAL LEARNER PLAN 2025-26 – APPROVED

M/Debbie Edwards; S/ Frank King; Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 01-25-26 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN – APPROVED

M/ Bill Hauss; S/ Frank King; Motion carried unanimously.

CTE PROGRAM PLAN AND PERKINS GRANT – APPROVED

M/Bill Hauss; S/Debbie Edwards; Motion carried unanimously.

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A. General Fund	# 70152885 – 70153057	
	# 70153079 - 70153105	\$2,722,489.73
B. ASB Fund	# 70409960 - 70409967	\$8,009.44
C. Capital Projects Fund	# 70501845 - 70501855	\$689,086.28
D. Comp Tax	# 112300022 – 202100170	\$3,884.98
E. General ACH	# 9000000001- 9000000005	\$303.09
F. September Payroll		\$6,696,945.74

M/Debbie Edwards; S/Bill Hauss; Motion carried unanimously.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The board received an update from the Director of Operations, Teri Melone. Facilities reported that the district is awaiting the OSPI grant determination for Yelm High School's indoor air quality (HVAC) improvements in the 400 building. Staff are also preparing a Washington State Department of Commerce Solar Grant application, due November 4, to seek funding for McKenna Elementary.

Food Service reported a decrease in meal applications, with 1,153 secondary students currently approved, down by 240 from the previous period. A total of 384 families have been notified of non-renewal, and that meal fees will now be charged. Negative balance reminders continue to be sent weekly.

The update also acknowledged National Bus Safety Week and recognized transportation staff for their continued focus on student safety.

Public Works: APPROVED

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor/Reason</u>
63.23	\$134,187.31	Lake Tapps Construction – Covered Play shed Project – SW
109.24	\$227,978.27	Hermanson Co LLP – Boilers Replacement – YHS
158.24	\$741.80	Hermanson Co LLP - 2 Bard Units Troubleshoot – PR Preschool
159.24	\$1,322.15	Hermanson Co LLP - Walk-in Fridge Temp Diagnostics – FS
04.25	\$1,265.17	Hermanson Co LLP - Milk Cooler Thermostat Replacement - LK
05.25	\$1,003.83	Hermanson Co LLP - RM138 Condensate Pump Replacement – YHS
06.25	\$777.18	Drain Pro - Drain Cleaning Emergency Service Call – SW
07.25	\$535.73	Hermanson Co LLP - Front Office No Cooling and Condensate Pump Turn Off Troubleshoot – YHS
08.25	\$964.31	Hermanson Co LLP - Daikin VRF - Multiple Classrooms Not Keeping Temp Troubleshoot – MP
09.25	\$774.81	Hermanson Co LLP - Milk Cooler Not Keeping Temp Troubleshoot – LK
10.25	\$560.33	Hermanson Co LLP - Fujitsu Mini Split MDF Room Not Keeping Temp Troubleshoot – RMS
15.25	\$3,037.82	Hermanson Co LLP - Troubleshoot Classrooms 13-20, Commons, Library, Stage, Gym & Kitchen Areas Not Cooling – PR

M/Frank King; S/Bill Hauss; Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

No report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

Oct 2025	5403 HC	5281.24 FTE (191.92 < 5443.00)
Sept 2025	5351 HC	5214.78 FTE (228.22 < 5443.00)
Oct 2024	5798 HC	

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members expressed appreciation for district staff, paraeducators, teachers, and all employees for their dedication and hard work. Acknowledgment was given to the principals for recognizing staff contributions, and members expressed understanding of the challenges educators face.

The board discussed community engagement and transparency, highlighting opportunities for parents to participate in reviewing curriculum, particularly the sex education materials. Members encouraged greater parent involvement in district activities and meetings.

Congratulations were extended to Southworth Assistant Principal Traci Schultz for being named Vice Principal of the Year. Board members commended the district's alignment of programs such as CTE, Multilingual Learner, and Advanced Academics with the strategic plan.

A student board representative's remarks were praised for reflecting the positive spirit of the district, with one member suggesting his statement be adopted as a motto emphasizing unity and teamwork.

Board members reaffirmed their gratitude to all staff who continue to serve Yelm Community Schools, noting the importance of every employee to student success. They closed their remarks by emphasizing the importance of maintaining a positive outlook and celebrating the good things happening across the district.

Student Representative Comments:

Student representatives shared their appreciation for the positive highlights throughout the meeting. They commended Yelm Community Schools for continuing to recognize and celebrate outstanding staff through the Instructional Excellence Awards, even during challenging times for the community. They expressed enthusiasm for district initiatives such as the Multilingual Learner Plan, Advanced Academics, and Career Exploration opportunities, noting how these programs benefit students from elementary through high school.

The students also praised the success of the CARE Night event and the district's continued focus on community involvement and optimism. One representative shared a personal connection with Ms. Fisher, their former ASL teacher, and reflected on the impact of seeing her recognized for her contributions. Student representatives noted the excitement, passion, and positivity demonstrated by presenters and staff throughout the evening's meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent congratulated staff recognized during the meeting, noting that celebrating employees is one of the most enjoyable parts of board meetings. He expressed appreciation to the administrative team and the Office of Student Learning for their dedication to professional development and alignment with the district's strategic plan. Recent training focused on Tier 1 instruction and maintaining consistency and improvement across classrooms. He also thanked administrators, directors, and program leaders for their commitment and the significant behind-the-scenes work that supports schools and students, emphasizing the important role district office staff play in school success.

He highlighted recent and upcoming district activities, including the YHS cross-country league meet, the YHS volleyball game against Sumner, and a KING 5 news feature by Drew Mickelson

that covered the levy and included a visit to Mr. Means' middle school band class. The superintendent noted his upcoming monthly bus ride, a favorite opportunity to connect with students, and shared that several elementary and middle schools will host family-friendly Halloween events this week and next, inviting community participation and noting there will be plenty of candy to go around.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

/S/Chris M. Woods
Secretary to the Board

/S/Denise Hendrickson
Board President