

**YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Farrell Emmett Elementary Media Center
Thursday, January 8, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Bullard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

In the absence of Board Secretary Mark Hurlburt, President Bullard appointed Meghan Butler as acting secretary for tonight's meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Bullard invited Farrell Emmett Elementary students to lead the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a Moment of Silence.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bullard, French, Butler, McClelland, Johnson, Brancaccio

Members Absent: Hurlburt

Also Present: Superintendent Kurt Sutton
Assistant Superintendent Bill Kryscynski
Business Services Director Beky Silkworth
Secretary to the Board Nancy Maplethorpe,
Student Representative Alfred Schwehofer
Farrell Emmett Elementary Principal Jessica Harris, several Farrell Emmett Elementary staff, students and parents.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Carried

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Superintendent Sutton had "The Bulldog Learning Legacy" file from Business View Magazine on a screen for community members to see.
- Mr. Sutton announced that January is "Board Appreciation Month" and thanked the Board for all that they do.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- Our seniors will be participating in the Real Life, Real Choices simulation led by representatives from Extra Credit Union on Friday, January 16th. We have had this program in place for a few years now that provides students the opportunity to select a job and experience life by paying a mortgage, utility bills, and various other expenses. This further allows students to understand the importance of saving money, credit scores, and much more.
- Our Physics II students are completing their projects to do some engineering design concepts while using microcontrollers and programming them to complete tasks. This year those tasks include playing chess, rocket telemetry, and an automated irrigation system to name a few.
- We are working through project planning for the summer of 2026 and beyond. We are awaiting state reviews on the replacement of our baseball and softball dugouts, a new secure vestibule and office change at Yale Elementary, and renovations at the former Head Start building that will allow us to move GSRP to this location. We have had several meetings with the architect to make sure these projects are completed as designed within the timeframe desired. We plan to put these projects out to bid in the next few months.

7. **Student Representative Report** – Alfred Schwehofer
- Mr. Schwehofer spoke about several happenings around the high school, highlighting many successes and activities that students participate in.
 - He also spoke about many sports contests and individual wins over the past month, as well as upcoming tournaments these groups will be sponsoring.
 - Physics II students created several innovative projects. This exercise is designed to encourage “outside the box” thinking and develop creativity.

8. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A. Special Guests: Farrell Emmett Elementary Presentation

- Mrs. Roose and her Civics Club representatives created a slide show highlighting special events and programs at Farrell Emmett Elementary.

BREAK: The Board took a short recess at 7:19 PM.
Returned to open session at 7:27

B. Agenda Items: None

C. Non-Agenda Items:

- A parent, Nikki Louks, asked the Board to consider installing playground fencing at Avoca Elementary. Superintendent Sutton responded that several playground improvements at all the elementaries are in the works.

9. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A. Treasurer’s Report and Monthly Bills in the amount of **\$604,058.17**.

Motion by Butler seconded by French to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer’s Report and approve monthly bills in the amount of **\$604,058.17**. as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt- Abs., French- Yes, Butler- Yes, McClelland-Yes, Johnson- Yes, Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Carried

10. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**

A. Instruction and Personnel

1. Resignations

A. Walter Myus, Bus Driver

B. Edward (Al) Lubinski Avoca & Farrell Emmett Elementary Custodian

2. Recommendations to the Substitute List

Motion by Brancaccio seconded by Johnson to approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt- Abs., French- Yes, Butler- Yes, McClelland-Yes, Johnson- Yes, Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Carried

11. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Budget Amendment

Motion by Butler seconded by French to adopt the first proposed Budget Amendment as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt- Abs., French- Yes, Butler- Yes, McClelland-Yes, Johnson- Yes, Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

B. Bus Purchase

Motion by Johnson seconded by Butler to approve the purchase of one diesel bus from the Midwest Transit Company in the amount of \$159,359.00 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt- Abs., French- Yes, Butler- Yes, McClelland-Yes, Johnson- Yes, Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

C. Internet and Fiber Bid Award

Motion by Johnson seconded by Brancaccio to award the Internet Service and Managed Lit Fiber bid to St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency in the amount of \$62,200 per year. This is a one-year agreement (2026/2027 school year) with up to a two-year extension.

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt- Abs., French- Yes, Butler- Yes, McClelland-Yes, Johnson- Yes, Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

D. Retainer Contract with Thrun Law Firm

Motion by Butler seconded by Johnson to approve the Retainer Contract with Thrun Law Firm, P.C. for the January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 calendar year in the amount of \$2,500 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Yes, Hurlburt- Abs., French- Yes, Butler- Yes, McClelland-Yes, Johnson- Yes, Brancaccio-Yes

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

E. Board Members Code of Ethics Signing

- Yale's Board of Education makes an annual pledge to community and staff to act in an ethical and legal manner by having each Board member sign the Board of Education Code of Ethics.

13. **COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS, ADMINISTRATION**

- Superintendent Sutton, President Bullard and all the Board members thanked Farrell Emmett Elementary Staff, students and Principal Harris for hosting the meeting, providing the slide presentation and Board appreciation gifts.

14. **ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS 7:44 PM**

**Meghan Butler, Acting Secretary
Yale Board of Education**