Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

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MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, March 12, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hauss, Denise Hendrickson, Ryan Jewell, Frank King

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Rebecca Rankin, Ayden Williams

CALLED TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Bill Hauss called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MILL POND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Principal Beckie Fowler presented an overview of Mill Pond Elementary's 2025–2026 school improvement focus, centered on three priorities: Tier 1 Instruction, Belonging, and Community Partnerships. She shared current building data, including enrollment and student demographics, and highlighted strengths such as strong student attendance, positive family engagement, and academic growth in several grade levels. Fowler discussed the school's goal of ensuring high-quality Tier 1 instruction for all students, supported through regular data meetings, MTSS intervention cycles, small-group instruction, and targeted supports for students who need additional help. She also noted ongoing challenges, including chronic absenteeism among some student groups and the need to address disparities in discipline and enrichment opportunities.

Fowler explained efforts to strengthen a culture of belonging through student leadership opportunities, restorative practices, and activities that amplify student voice. She shared examples of family engagement events and strategies used to build stronger connections between students, staff, and families.

Booster Club President Scott Cole spoke about the role of the Booster Club in supporting the school community through events and volunteer opportunities. He highlighted the success of recent family and community events, the growth in volunteer participation, and the importance of creating welcoming opportunities for families to connect with the school. The presentation emphasized the value of collaboration between the school, families, and the broader community to support student success.

AUDIENCE

Superintendent's Comments

Board Director Denise Hendrickson addressed an incident that occurred at the district office the previous week involving an individual who entered the building recording video for a YouTube channel. She stated that the district office is district property and emphasized that the individual's actions appeared intended to provoke staff and create content rather than obtain information. Hendrickson expressed concern about the individual confronting district employees and stated that she did not support staff being harassed for the purpose of online content.

Superintendent Chris Woods provided additional context about the incident, explaining that the individual entered the district office wearing a mask and recording video while requesting an index of public records and attempting to make a verbal public records request but declining to specify the records being requested. Woods noted that the individual remained in the office for

approximately an hour and twenty minutes, during which staff felt uncomfortable and regular work was disrupted. Law enforcement was contacted and responded professionally. Woods stated that the district followed its public records policies and that staff handled the situation appropriately. He also noted that communication would be sent to staff with guidance should a similar situation occur in the future.

Woods also updated the board on the district's anticipated reduction in force (RIF) process. He explained that many school districts are facing financial pressures due to reduced enrollment, levy losses, rising costs, and limited increases in state funding. While the district expects to bring a resolution forward at a future meeting, he indicated the reduction would likely involve targeted positions rather than a large-scale reduction like in previous years. Woods added that the district continues to respond to public records requests as required by law and remains committed to transparency while managing the significant time required to fulfill those requests.

Community Comments
No comments were presented.

NEW BUSINESS

INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

NEW HIRES	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Connor Benson	YHS Coach Assistant Baseball	3/2/2026
Jenna Burnham	Facilities Custodian	3/2/2026
Amanda Loomis	Transportation Bus Driver	3/2/2026

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
No Report

RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS / TERMINATIONS

Shonda Carrier	YHS Coach Assistant Girls Tennis	2/27/2026 Resignation
Harold Church	Transportation Bus Driver	3/16/2026 Resignation
Tiana Giesy	Food Service Cafeteria Worker	5/19/2026 Resignation
Veronica Keith	YHS Library Tech	6/30/2026 Retirement
Gabriel Levanel	RMS SPED Paraeducator	2/23/2026 Resignation
David Michalak	Transportation Bus Driver	2/19/2026 Resignation
Trinity Potter	MP Teacher Special Education	8/31/2026 Resignation
Nicole Scheuerman	YMS Coach Head Volleyball	2/17/2026 Resignation
Brandon Thompson	YHS Coach Assistant Football	2/26/2026 Resignation
Starla Watson	LK Principal	6/30/2026 Resignation
Elizabeth Wakeman	YHS SPED Paraeducator	2/19/2026 Resignation
Shannon Gubser	OSS SEL Specialist	8/31/2026 Resignation

STAFFING CHANGES:

Silbia Saldana	FS OP III to OP V	3/2/2026

REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT:

Jacob Jansen	MP SPED	3/16/2026 Long Term Sub

M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Frank King; Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 04-25-26 – REQUEST FOR APPORTIONMENT REDIRECTION - APPROVED
M/Frank King; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 05-25-26 – YHS CONNECTS DONATION REFUND OF RESTRICTED GIFT – APPROVED

M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Frank King; Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS, REPLACEMENT, AND ADDITIONS – APPROVED

CATEGORY	POLICY	ACTION
Critical	**2170** Career and Technical Education	Revisions
Second Reading – For Approval		
Critical	**3241 Procedure & F1** Student Discipline	Replacement
Important	**5010 & P** Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action	Replacement
Critical	**5011 & P** Sexual Harassment of District Staff Prohibited	Replacement
Critical	**6700 & P** Nutrition	Revisions
Critical	**6701 & P** Recess and Physical Activity	New
Critical	**6702 & P** Wellness	New
Single Reading – For Approval		
	4040 Public Access to District Records	Revision

M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Frank King; Motion carried 3-1.

UPDATED CURRICULUM ADOPTION – 5TH GRADE FAMILY LIVING AND SEXUAL HEALTH (FLASH) – SECOND VOTE – APPROVED

M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Frank King; Motion carried, 3-1

BOARD COMMENTS

A board member expressed appreciation for the district's engagement efforts and the positive impact of male role models participating in early education activities. The board members also commended district staff for their handling of a recent situation and thanked Mill Pond Elementary for hosting the meeting.

The board members shared observations from visiting classrooms, including reading with kindergarten students, and highlighted the enthusiasm of young learners. Additional comments recognized student leadership opportunities, including ideas for engaging students in school projects such as organizing lost and found items. The board member also noted the value of career pathway programs for high school students, particularly those interested in becoming future educators, and reminded the community about the upcoming Dollars for Scholars auction.

Student Representative Comments:

The student representatives commented positively on efforts to build belonging and improve attendance, particularly through elementary student leadership opportunities and events that bring families and the community together. Appreciation was also expressed for the ongoing respectful discussions around curriculum, emphasizing the importance of transparency and communication with families while ensuring state requirements are met. Additionally, Rebecca Rankin recognized a retiring high school library staff member for her contributions to students and the school community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Chris Woods thanked Mill Pond Principal, Becky Fowler and her staff for their presentation and for their transparency in sharing both successes and areas needing improvement, including student attendance. He expressed appreciation for school leaders and staff who openly engage in these important conversations with the community.

Superintendent Woods also recognized **Education Support Professionals Week**, acknowledging the contributions of support staff across the district, including paraeducators, custodians, maintenance and grounds staff, transportation, and technology personnel, whose work is essential to the daily operations of the schools.

He highlighted Ridgeline Middle School's recent recognition as an AVID National Demonstration School, noting the significance of the designation and the positive impact the program has on student confidence and academic growth.

Superintendent Woods thanked the Board of Directors for engaging in thoughtful discussions and emphasized the importance of community involvement and advocacy at the state level to support decisions that best serve students.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:	Approved by:
/S/Chris M. Woods	/S/Casey Shaw
Secretary to the Board	Board President