

Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

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MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, February 26, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hauss, Denise Hendrickson, Ryan Jewell, Frank King, Casey Shaw

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Hannah Hiivah, Sofie Miera, Rebecca Rankin, Ayden Williams

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Holly Ackerman, DeeDee Buckingham, Lisa Cadero-Smith, Ellen Cavanaugh, Curtis Cleveringa, Charles Cook, Craig Curry, Kurt Fourre, Becki Fowler, Jodi Jarmin, Kendall McNutt, Teri Melone, Shannon Powell, Traci Schultz, Starla Watson, Chris Woods.

CALLED TO ORDER

President Casey Shaw called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE

Board Recognition

Director of Operations Teri Melone and Food Service Supervisor Tina Friesz recognized the following award nominees:

<p style="text-align: center;">Career and Technical Educational Excellence Award <i>Recognizing CTE teachers who cultivate dynamic, hands-on learning experiences that bridge classroom knowledge with real-world experiences, empowering students for thriving careers and lifelong success.</i></p>
<p>Hillary Hull</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Excellence in Food Services Award <i>Recognizing food service professionals who provide nutritious, reliable, and efficient meal services, fostering a positive and supportive environment for students and staff across the district.</i></p>
<p>Adriana Lucatero</p>

Presidential Scholar Program

The Superintendent announced that four Yelm High School students have been nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program, describing the recognition as a significant achievement for the students, the school, and the community. He explained that each high school may nominate one male and one female student in the overall achievement category, as well as one student each in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Arts categories. From those nominations, OSPI selects up to 10 male and 10 female students statewide in the general category, along with five students each in the Arts and CTE categories, to move forward in the selection process.

The four Yelm High School nominees are: Sofie Miera (CTE), Sophia Mohrweis (Arts), Madelyn Lawson (Overall Achievement), and Kolton Nash (Overall Achievement). The students will now advance to the next round, which includes submitting additional school and community information and completing short essays. Regardless of the final outcome, the Superintendent emphasized that being nominated is a notable accomplishment and congratulated the students on their hard work and achievement.

Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Chris Woods provided a detailed budget update, outlining ongoing efforts to address the district’s loss of approximately \$15–16 million in levy funding. He reviewed reductions already implemented (approximately half of the deficit), the use of qualifying capital expenditures (over \$300,000 this year), and the transfer of approximately \$1.1 million in interest earnings to the General Fund as legally allowable measures.

Mr. Woods reported that, after extensive consultation with OSPI and the ESD and a review of historical transfers dating back to 2015–2016, the district is eligible to transfer up to \$7.8 million from the Capital Fund to the General Fund. Of that amount, \$3.3 million must be transferred back due to prior board-approved transfers that did not receive final OSPI authorization. He emphasized that all original transfers were legally approved by board resolution and made for appropriate capital purposes; however, the required OSPI approval step was not completed in certain cases.

Financial projections were presented with and without the transfer. Without action, the district would end the current year with approximately \$338,000 and project a negative \$6.3 million fund balance in 2026–27. With a \$7.8 million transfer, the district would end the current year with approximately \$8.1 million and project a \$1.5 million ending balance next year—below the board’s 5% fund balance policy (approximately \$4.8 million) but remaining solvent. Mr. Woods noted that even with the transfer, additional reductions will be necessary, as this represents a one-time solution that does not address the ongoing structural deficit.

He further explained that transferring \$7.8 million would reduce the Capital Fund balance from \$14.5 million to approximately \$6.7 million, limiting capital spending to emergency and safety-related needs. He emphasized that this action would “buy time” but not resolve long-term funding challenges driven by inflation and inadequate state funding. Regional data shared indicated that a significant majority of districts are implementing reductions in force, even those that have passed levies or bonds.

Mr. Woods recommended bringing forward a resolution in March to authorize the transfer, noting that the district would remain financially stable through that timeline. Board members expressed appreciation for the thorough review and acknowledged the transfer as a temporary measure while continuing to advocate for sustainable funding solutions.

Community Comments

No comments were presented.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED

January 8, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
January 22, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
M/Bill Hauss; S/Ryan King; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Armin Basic	YHS Coach Assistant Track – Throws	3/2/2026
Braden Hill	YHS Coach Assistant Track	3/2/2026
Phil Perry	YHS coach Assistant Boys Soccer	3/2/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Hichem Ouchefoune	Transportation Bus Driver	2/28/2026 Unpaid LOA

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Joseph Brueske	YHS Teacher ELA	Resignation 2/11/2026
Daniel Caldwell	YHS Coach Assistant Football	Resignation 2/11/2026
Hailey Herman	Facilities Custodian	Revised Resignation 2/3/2026
Amber Lantz	FS Teacher Title I	Resignation 2/27/2026
Lorene Wolski	YHS Teacher Special Education	Resignation 6/8/2026
STAFFING CHANGES:		
Kelli Fouts	OYO BSA	2/16/2026 Lateral Transfer Request
Tannah Evans	OYO BSA	2/16/2026 Lateral Transfer Request
REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT		
Jamie Roden	SW Kindergarten	2/12/2026 Long Term Sub - KW
STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
\$31,400.00		

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED

YHS Connects, YHS Honor Society \$250.00

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

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL - APPROVED

1. YHS FBLA to Spokane, WA, April 21-24, 2026, to participate in the FBLA State Business Leadership Conference: 14 students and 2 chaperones.
2. YHS Cross Country to Trego, Montana, June 16-20, 2026, to attend a Cross-Country camp, 14-19 students and 1 chaperone.

M/Bill Hauss; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATED CURRICULUM ADOPTION 5TH GRADE FAMILY LIFE AND SEXUAL HEALTH (FLASH) - APPROVED

Motion was made by Denise Hendrickson to approve the updated curriculum and seconded by Bill Hauss.

Ryan Jewell moved to amend the motion to approve the work that was done in the committee. Seconded by Bill Hauss and the amended motion carried unanimously.

INTER-LOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT – BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE 2026/2027 – APPROVED

M/Bill Hauss; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

INTER-DISTRICT AGREEMENT WITH ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FEBRUARY 1, 2026 – AUGUST 31, 2030 – APPROVED

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

2026/27 STUDENT CALENDAR – APPROVED

M/Frank King; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS, REPLACEMENTS, AND ADDITIONS

<i>First Reading – For Review</i>		
CATEGORY	POLICY	ACTION
Critical	2170 Career and Technical Education	Revisions
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

FORT STEVENS AND MILL POND WALKER ROUTES

Director of Operations Teri Melone presented information regarding student walking routes and anticipated residential development in the Fort Stevens and Mill Pond/Prairie areas. The presentation included maps identifying current and proposed walking routes and highlighted planned development in the Mill Pond area, with construction anticipated to begin in Spring 2027. The information was shared with the Board for awareness and future planning considerations related to student access and neighborhood growth.

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A. General Fund	# 70153571 – 70153717	\$1,405,515.41
B. ASB Fund	# 70410024 - 70410046	\$15,085.35
C. Capital Projects Fund	# 70401870 - 70501871	\$345,406.49
D. Comp Tax	# 112300026 – 202100173	\$3,533.28
E. General ACH	# 9000000049- 9000000058	\$2,050.28
F. January Payroll		\$6,327,189.09

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Director of Operations Teri Melone presented the Operations Update to the Board. The report included recognition of the district’s Safety Committee Grant Award and highlighted the representatives from various schools and departments who participate in the committee. An update was also provided on the recent Food Service audit, noting no fiscal findings and only one minor error identified out of 420 free and reduced meal applications. Staff were recognized for quickly implementing process improvements to ensure students receive reimbursable meals, and Southworth Elementary was noted for serving the highest number of meals in January.

The presentation also outlined the district’s lead testing requirements for drinking water fixtures, including the testing timeline, reporting requirements to the Department of Health by June 30, 2026, and the development of an action plan and public reporting of results to the Board and community.

Public Works: APPROVED

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor/Reason</u>
81.24	\$114,937.55	INSI Inc. - Fiber Optic Installation to Reader Boards – YHS, RMS, LK, MK, MP, FS, PR & SW
143.24	\$1,374.23	WA Fire Protection, LLC - Power Supply Service Call – YHS
24.25	\$2,378.77	INSI Inc. - Cat-6 Horizontal Cabling Installation – TRANS TI
26.25	\$6,003.07	Lake Tapps Construction - Vandalized Door Replacement – PR
32.25	\$11,234.70	Holiday-Parks, Inc. – Glycol Installation – RMS

41.25	\$2,485.00	SME Solutions, LLC - Fuel Tank Leak Detection Testing & Vapor Recovery Testing – TRANS
48.25	\$1,314.00	C4 Products LLC - Interior Vestibule Door Diagnostics & Repair – YMS
52.25	\$1,489.35	INSI Inc. - PE/Office Quad Workstation Drop Installation – MK
53.25	\$904.63	INSI Inc. - Copier Room Dual Workstation Drop Installation – MP
60.25	\$758.11	Cascade Fire & Security - Emergency Fire Sprinkler Repair – PR
62.25	\$251.85	Security Solutions NW - Troubleshoot A8207-VE MK II – TRANS
64.25	\$901.60	Security Solutions NW - Troubleshoot Door Security Reader & Camera – PR
65.25	\$985.50	WA Fire Protection, LLC - FA Alarm Not Silencing on P13/14 - disconnected wiring from fire-damaged portable – YHS
67.25	\$947.63	Drain Pro - Drain Cleaning Service Call - Investigate and Clean Back Up – YMS
70.25	\$684.38	Drain Pro - Drain Cleaning Service Call – YES
72.25	\$750.02	Hermanson Co LLP - Air Handler #2 Gas Heat Not Heating Diagnostics & Repair – YMS

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

No additional report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

Feb 2026	5307 HC	5178.50 FTE (213.06 < 5443.00)
Jan 2026	5526 HC	5336.42 FTE (202.78 < 5443.00)
Feb 2025	5549 HC	

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members emphasized the importance of parent and community involvement in supporting students and remaining engaged in their children’s education. They noted that active participation and open communication with schools can help strengthen the partnership between families, the district, and the community.

Board members congratulated the U.S. Presidential Scholar nominees and other student award recipients recognized during the meeting, acknowledging the hard work and dedication required to achieve these honors. Appreciation was also expressed for district staff, including Food Service teams and those recognized during the meeting, for their continued support of students and the school community.

Members also recognized the efforts of community organizations and volunteers, including the Booster Club and the Boys & Girls Club. It was shared that a recent community fundraiser raised approximately \$40,000 to support the Yelm Boys & Girls Club, helping ensure continued opportunities for local youth. Additional upcoming community events supporting students were noted, including Dollars for Scholars activities and Rotary events that help fund student programs and teacher grants.

Board members expressed appreciation for the time and dedication required to serve on the Board, noting the many meetings, discussions, and difficult decisions involved. The meeting concluded with acknowledgment of recent student activities, including a band concert where middle school students had the opportunity to perform with the high school band.

Student Representative Comments:

- Student board representatives shared that the meeting included a large amount of helpful information, particularly regarding the district budget and capital funds.

- They congratulated Ms. Hull for receiving the CTE Excellence recognition, noting the positive impact she has on students.
- Student representatives also recognized and expressed pride in the district's U.S. Presidential Scholar nominees.
- Appreciation was shared for the work of the Food Service team, noting the important role they play in supporting students and highlighting that Southworth Elementary served 14,503 meals in January.
- Student representatives discussed the importance of community and parent engagement, encouraging families to participate in meetings and discussions to better understand the work of the Board and district.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent thanked the student board representatives for their participation and contributions, noting the important role they play in sharing perspectives and helping others better understand the work of the Board and district. Appreciation was also expressed to Board members for their time, dedication, and willingness to engage in conversations that support students, staff, and the community. It was noted that two Board members recently met with teacher union leadership as part of ongoing efforts to maintain open communication and work collaboratively toward solutions.

The Superintendent also recognized the Board's support and engagement in district leadership and decision-making. Upcoming events were highlighted, including the Ridgeline Middle School AVID Demonstration School validation visit on March 10, which is the final step toward national recognition as an AVID Demonstration School, and the Dollars for Scholars fundraiser on March 14, which raises scholarship funds for graduating students pursuing post-secondary education.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

/S/Chris M. Woods
Secretary to the Board

/S/Casey Shaw
Board President