Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

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MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, March 26, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Sofie Miera, Kailey Slevin, Cali Stein, Ayden Williams

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Holly Ackerman, Jeff Adams, Mark Bowden, DeeDee Buckingham, Lisa Cadero-Smith, Ellen Cavanaugh, Lisa Crowell, Kurt Fourre, Jodi Jarmin, Jonathan Maynard, Kendall McNutt, Teri Melone, Shannon Powell, Anthony Quichocho, 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 Technology Jonathan Maynard and the Director of Transportation Jeff Adams recognized the following award nominees:

Excellence in Information Technology Award *Recognizing technology professionals who ensure seamless, reliable, and efficient support and data management, fostering a positive and productive environment for students and staff districtwide.*
Michael Young & Weston Baker
Excellence in Transportation Services Award *Recognizing transportation professionals who ensure safe, reliable, and efficient services, fostering a positive and supportive environment for students and staff across the district.*
Brian Edwards

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Chris Woods provided an update on district staffing, noting that the annual staff intent-to-return survey is underway to determine anticipated vacancies for the upcoming school year. This information, along with ongoing enrollment projections, will guide staffing decisions. As part of a potential reduction in force (RIF), the district will prioritize reductions through naturally vacated positions. Additional details regarding staffing and the reduced education plan will be presented later in the agenda.

Superintendent Woods also announced two upcoming principal openings due to administrative transitions, including one related to relocation. The district has initiated a comprehensive and inclusive hiring process at both schools, encouraging staff and student involvement through screening committees, interviews, building tours, and candidate presentations. Finalist interviews for both positions are scheduled for April 27, with an opportunity for board member participation.

The board recognized student representatives Sofie Miera and Cali Stein for their outstanding achievements at a recent sports medicine competition in California. Students shared their experiences, highlighting extensive preparation, teamwork, and a strong overall performance that included top placements and a national title.

Additionally, student representative Kailey Slevin was recognized for signing a letter of intent to compete in collegiate athletics. She plans to attend the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, where she will compete in track and field while pursuing studies in entrepreneurship and animal behavior.

Superintendent Woods commended all student representatives for their dedication, leadership, and contributions to the district.

Community Comments
Comments were presented by Southworth Booster Club and Kay Anderson.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED
February 12, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
February 26, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
March 12, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
M/Bill Hauss; S/Ryan King; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Carley Bersin	OSS Behavior Support Assistant	3/18/2026
Cassidy Foster	YHS Coach Assistant Tennis	3/23/2026
Victoria Pipolo	OSS ESA School Psychologist	3/13/2026
Lana Yenne	YMS Coach Head Volleyball	3/12/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Breanna Hiblar	FS SPED Paraeducator	3/4/2026-6/10/2026
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Kapriana Colacino	SW SPED Paraeducator	3/13/2026 Resignation
Jacob Dimond	YHS Coach Assistant Football	3/4/2026 Resignation
Ashley Ellis	YHS Coach Assistant Volleyball	3/11/2026 Resignation
Ashley Ellis	RMS Coach Assistant Volleyball	3/11/2026 Resignation
Kelli Fouts	OSS Behavior Support Assistant	3/2/2026 Resignation
Bronte Hardison	SW Instructional Paraeducator	3/18/2026 Resignation
Marianna Kemp	PR SPED Paraeducator	6/30/2026 Resignation
Jade Land	YHS SPED Paraeducator	6/30/2026 Resignation
Christianne Zackula	YHS Teacher World Language	8/31/2026 .20 FTE Resignation
Craig Curry	RMS Principal	6/30/2026 Resignation
STAFFING CHANGES:		
No Report		
REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT		
Brandon Borchers	YHS Math	Long Term
Taylor Pease	MP 1st Grade	Long Term
STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
$115,195.00		

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED
Teamsters 252, YHS Invest Ed $1,000.00
RMS Booster Club, AVID Field Trip $1,000.00

Ann Ward, YHS Auto shop tools .....FMV $1,000.00
Gilliardi Logging & Construction, YHS FFA .....FMV $620.94
M/Frank King; S/Bill Hauss; Motion carried unanimously.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL - APPROVED

1. YHS Chamber Choir & Select Choir, April 22-24, 2026, to participate in a choir tour, 3 students and 2 chaperones and an undetermined number of choir parents.
2. YHS FFA to WSU in Pullman, May 13-17, 2026, to participate in the FFA State competition; 52 students and 5 chaperones.

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

RESOLUTION 06-25-26 REDUCED EDUCATION PLAN – APPROVED

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

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Board received a mid-year Strategic Plan update highlighting overall progress, key successes, and ongoing challenges. Data indicates increased student belonging, improved behavioral outcomes, and notable academic growth in early elementary math and 4th grade literacy. Secondary course passing rates, including 9th grade on-track indicators, have improved compared to the previous year.

Attendance was identified as the most critical area of concern, with clear connections to academic performance, assessment growth, and graduation readiness. The district emphasized the message that consistent attendance is essential for student success.

Staff are prioritizing supportive, relationship-based outreach to families, using personal communication methods such as phone calls and meetings, along with digital tools to reinforce messaging. Efforts focus on partnership with families rather than punitive approaches.

The district is also expanding community engagement by leveraging trusted partners, including PTO leaders, coaches, faith leaders, and military connections, to strengthen advocacy and communication. The Strategic Planning Committee will reconvene on June 11 to review end-of-year data and begin planning for the 2026–27 school year.

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A.	General Fund	# 70153737 – 70153885	$1,519,449.01
B.	ASB Fund	# 70410047 - 70410064	$30,663.36
C.	Capital Projects Fund	# 70401872 - 70501873	$9,293.54
D.	Comp Tax	# 112300027 – 202100174	$71.21
E.	General ACH	# 9000000059- 9000000081	$3,358.92
F.	TVF	#70700046 – 70700046	$224,217.35
G.	February Payroll		$6,389,476.67

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Director of Operations Teri Melone presented an update on current facilities, safety, and infrastructure projects across the district.

At Yelm High School, a tentative settlement has been recommended for replacement of a damaged portable, with installation planning underway and an anticipated delivery timeline of 5–6 months. Summer demolition is being planned, with coordination for training use by the fire department and required permits identified by the City of Yelm.

Updates were also provided on the Yelm High School gym roof repair. The original contractor is completing repairs, scheduled during weekends and spring break to minimize disruption. Additional interior repairs from prior water damage are ongoing.

At Yelm Middle School, traffic flow revisions are being reviewed with a focus on accident prevention. Concerns were noted regarding a malfunctioning school speed zone beacon at Ridgeline Middle School due to outdated technology. The City of Yelm has ordered new school zone signage in response to a community request near Mill Pond.

Finally, the district is working with Puget Sound Energy regarding an easement request related to underground and aerial fiber infrastructure.

Public Works: APPROVED

Project #	Amount	Vendor/Reason
29.25	$932.12	Food Service Equipment - Emergency Dishwasher Diagnostics & Repair – YHS
43.25	$1,701.43	Food Service Equipment - Dishwasher Repair – MK
63.25	$123.19	Security Solutions NW - Troubleshoot RMA Camera – RMS
71.25	$292.91	Food Service Equipment - Garbage Disposal Diagnostics and Repair – RMS
73.25	$1,314.00	Wood and Link Fence Co. – Fence Replacement – RMS
74.25	$1,500.04	Hermanson Co LLP - VFDs Fault Trip Diagnostics & Repair – YHS
75.25	$958.13	Drain-Pro - Drain Cleaning Service Call - Investigate Clogged M/L – YES
76.25	$1,532.19	Cascade Fire & Security - Emergency Sprinkler Repair – RMS
78.25	$2,571.50	Hermanson Co LLP - 2ND FLR N WING Daikin System Troubleshoot – YMS

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

No additional report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mar 2026	5291 HC	5159.60 FTE (223.36 < 5443.00)
Feb 2026	5307 HC	5178.50 FTE (213.06 < 5443.00)
Mar 2025	5573 HC	

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members congratulated student representatives and recognized their hard work and contributions. They acknowledged and expressed appreciation for Transportation and IT staff, emphasizing the importance of recognizing employee efforts. Board members also thanked the Southworth Booster Club and other booster organizations for their significant support, time, and financial contributions to schools, noting the strong impact of community involvement. They encouraged increased communication and engagement from community members, emphasizing that board members are accessible and available outside of meetings. Appreciation was shared for opportunities to participate in school and community events, and members reiterated the importance of student attendance and ensuring students are present and engaged in learning. Overall, board members expressed gratitude for the staff, students, and community members who contribute to the district's success.

Student Representative Comments:

- Expressed appreciation for the award nominees from Transportation and IT for their contributions and support of students
- Recognized the important role of bus drivers and the positive impact they have on students
- Congratulated fellow students on academic, athletic, and extracurricular achievements, including college commitments
- Acknowledged the Southworth Elementary Booster Club for donating a significant amount to support musical playground equipment
- Shared support for district efforts to improve student attendance and emphasized its importance
- Highlighted the use of a damaged portable for firefighter training as a positive outcome from a challenging situation
- Commended staff for adaptability and continued support of students following the portable fire

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent emphasized the high level of engagement and ongoing communication between board members and district leadership, noting that board members are actively involved behind the scenes through regular conversations, emails, and problem-solving efforts. He commended the Board for its strong commitment and responsiveness to district matters.

He encouraged community members to engage in direct communication with the district to better understand the work being done, highlighting the importance of constructive dialogue and partnership.

The Superintendent also addressed concerns regarding low family participation at the recent 8th grade parent night, despite extensive outreach efforts, and noted similar challenges with conference attendance. He stressed that family engagement is critical to student success and that the district must continue working to improve participation and strengthen partnerships with families.

The Superintendent reminded families that conferences are scheduled for the following week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and emphasized this as an important opportunity for families to engage in their child's education and partner with schools to support student success.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:27 p.m.

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