

**YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Avoca Elementary Media Center
Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Vice President Butler invited the students present to lead the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a Moment of Silence.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: French (Arrived at 7:12), Hurlburt, Butler, McClelland, Johnson, Brancaccio

Members Absent: Bullard

Also Present: Superintendent Kurt Sutton

Secretary to the Board Nancy Maplethorpe

Student Representative Alfred Schweihofer, Sherrie Kleitch.

Avoca Elementary Principal Therese Damman, Avoca Student Council

Advisors Jennifer Aquinaga & Jackie Harris, Steve Churchill, Nicole Johnson,
several Avoca Elementary parents and students.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Johnson seconded by Hurlburt to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Motion Carried

5. CORRESPONDENCE: None

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- Our elementary schools are celebrating Reading Month with different themes. Each theme is making the month focused on the joy of reading personalized as much as possible. Yale Elementary's theme of 'Reading is Out of This World!' is already a hit. Farrell Elementary's theme is Readersville and Avoca's theme is Future You – Oh the Places You'll Go which will focus on career pathways and reading.
- St. Clair RESA will be hosting the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for a review of our special education processes throughout the county as it relates to the least restrictive environment that we offer students. MDE will tour our campus, meet with some staff, and review our procedures to ensure we are meeting compliance standards. Every county in the state is going through these reviews over a five-year period and our county was selected for the 2026-2027 school year.
- We have been contacted by law enforcement from the Blue Water area who plan to conduct some school emergency training for police officers in our county on April 1 at Yale Junior High. This is during our spring break, but we wanted to make everyone aware that there will be a larger police presence on April 1 because of this training exercise.

7. **Student Representative Report – Alfred Schweihofer**

- Mr. Schweihofer spoke about several happenings around the high school, highlighting many successes and activities that students participate in, including the many upcoming sports events and tournaments.
- Josh Kriesch was awarded the Centralis Full Ride Scholarship to Central Michigan University.
- On March 11 the high school is hosting Julie's Kids Fundraiser which includes a taco dinner and talent show.
- The National Honor Society and SADD are running a safe driving campaign March 16-20 and are sponsoring a Spirit Week which includes a speaker who will talk about distracted driving.
- Robotics will be attending their first competition in Marysville and Mock Trial will have their first competition at Macomb. Esports is currently in week four of their spring season.
- The Leadership class will be attending Medilodge for a game day with dementia patients and recently helped at Avoca Elementary for March is Reading Month.

8. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A. Special Guests:

- Avoca Elementary School Presentation

Avoca Elementary Principal Therese Damman welcomed the board to Avoca Elementary and introduced Student Council Advisors, Jackie Harris and Jennifer Aguinaga who invited the Avoca Elementary Student Council members to introduce themselves to the board. Each individual student told the board how much they appreciated having the new hammock reading station area that was installed by Mr. Mike Johnson and the J4 Construction Crew. The students enjoy having this quiet place to read and relax. The students presented Mr. Johnson with a huge personalized, handcrafted thank you card that had been signed by all students.

Mr. Churchill's Writing Club recently completed a persuasive essay advocating for the creation of an educational gaming room at Avoca Elementary. Three fifth-grade students presented a synopsis of their essay, explaining why they believe such a space would be beneficial to all students. They highlighted how educational games can make learning more engaging while also reinforcing important Portrait of a Learner skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and strategy. The students shared that a dedicated gaming room could provide opportunities for students to practice skills in a fun, motivating environment, while also encouraging teamwork and positive social interaction. Their presentation reflected thoughtful planning, clear reasoning, and strong student voice as they made a compelling case for how the gaming room could enhance learning and enjoyment at Avoca Elementary.

B. Agenda Items: None

C. Non-Agenda Items: None

9. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A. Treasurer's Report and Monthly Bills in the amount of \$538,007.06.

Motion by French seconded by Hurlburt to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report and approve monthly bills in the amount of **\$538,007.06** as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Abs, Hurlburt- Yes, 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. Hiring

A. Jennifer Lata, Avoca Children's Center Closer/GSRP

2. Recommendations to the Substitute List

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

Roll Call Vote:

Bullard-Abs, Hurlburt- Yes, 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. Renewal of the 2026-27 ESS contract to extend services.

Motion by French seconded by Hurlburt to accept the 2026-27 ESS Midwest Inc. contract to provide substitute teachers per their proposed agreement as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Carried

B. Flooring Bid Award

Motion by Johnson seconded by Hurlburt to award the school flooring bid to McMillin's Furniture of Yale in the amount of \$99,983.00 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Carried

C. GSRP Bathroom Discussion

- Further discussion will continue with the bidder.

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

- Superintendent Sutton and Board members thanked Mrs. Damman for hosting the March meeting and praised the students for their excellent presentations

- Mr. Sutton reminded the Board of the Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:10 PM.

14. **ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS 7:39 PM**

MARK HURLBURT, SECRETARY
Yale Board of Education