

**YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Avoca Elementary Media Center
Thursday, April 9, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Bullard lead the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Kurt Sutton

Secretary to the Board Nancy Maplethorpe

Student Representative Alfred Schweihofer, SCCCMH Representatives Aubree Mayhew & Telly Delor, Yale Elementary Principal Rick Carlson, Occupational Therapist Tracy Atkinson and Yale Elementary Teacher Tara Jordan, Dave Frederick and many teachers, parents and students.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Sutton reminded the scholarship committee that he had emailed them the applications.
- In addition, he distributed the Board of Education Academic Awards information to the Board.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Special Guests:

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Presentation Creative Arts Contests winners

Aubree Mayhew and Telly Delor from St. Clair County Community Mental Health presented awards to the following Yale students who were winners in the Creative Arts Contest sponsored by Community Mental Health:

- Student: Harrison Czewski, Avoca Elementary
 - Award: Fourth Grade Bookmark Winner
- Student: Violet Giles, Yale Junior High School
 - Award: Honorable Mention, Middle School Poetry Contest
- Student: Melody Tomaschko, Yale Junior High School
 - Award: Honorable Mention, Middle School Poetry Contest
- Student: Ella Vokes, Yale High School
 - Award: Best in Show, High School Art Contest
- Student: Amy Campbell, Yale High School
 - Award: Third Place, High School Art Contest
- Student: Emily Lashbrook, Yale High School
 - Award: Honorable Mention, High School Art Contest
- Student: Tsuzmi Kitamura, Yale High School
 - Award: Honorable Mention, High School Art Contest
- Student: Linkin Terry, Yale High School
 - Award: Honorable Mention, High School Art Contest

Mrs. Mayhew also recognized Yale High School Teacher Alisa Nicol. For the last four years, a Yale High School Student from her art classes has been selected as the Best in Show winner of our art contest! This year Yale High School Student Ella Vokes won Best in Show for the second year.

7. Yale Elementary School Presentation

Principal Rick Carlson announced that we are working together to “get kids back to what they used to be doing”. He then introduced Occupational Therapist Tracy Atkinson and 1st grade teacher Tara Jordan. Mrs. Atkinson put together exercises and had the children demonstrate these exercises, the bridge, rocking horse, superman, giraffe stretch, the seal, scarred cat and the writing board. The children were very excited to show what they had learned and were all smiles when they changed positions and moved on to the next station. It was obvious that they enjoyed what they were doing and demonstrating what they had learned to the Board. The students focused on their exercises and had fun doing it.

Mrs. Jordan added that she is grateful for Mrs. Atkinson as the exercise class helps students. When asking the students what do you do, the students told her that they concentrate on walking, strengthening their hands and it helps them calm down.

Mr. Bullard said he was fascinated by the children and that the exercises were similar to basketball warmups.

The Board took a short recess at 7:27 PM

The Board returned to open session at 7:33 PM

8. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- Superintendent Sutton read/shared his report which contained the following:
- We are just a few weeks away from our drama club’s performance of Willy Wonka on Friday, April 24th at 6:00 PM and Saturday, April 25th at 6:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 at the door and we can’t wait to see our students put on a great show!
- Our application for the 61V grant to expand CTE offerings to Yale High School was not funded during this round. We were told that another round of funding will be available in the near future and we plan to submit a proposal once again. Our proposal would have brought heavy equipment simulators, welding equipment and simulators, CDL simulators, and more to YHS. We will regroup and submit a refined proposal in the near future.
- The BWAC All-Academic Banquet will be held on Wednesday, April 22 at Greystone Golf Course. This event allows each school district to highlight the academic achievements of the students in our conference. This will also be a time when BWAC schools will meet the leadership team from our new member school, Macomb Lutheran North.
- Over the next few weeks we will be going through the process of selecting a new student representative for the 2026-2027 board meetings. We plan to have the new person selected and in place for the May meeting.
- Our Board of Education Dinner alumni speaker is Chance Smeznik. Mr. Smeznik is a 2011 graduate and is a financial advisor in our area. Our commencement speaker is Kelly Tebay-Zemke, a 2005 graduate, who serves on Michigan State University’s Board of Trustees and also the Director of Government and External Relations at The Henry Ford in Dearborn.

9. **Student Representative Report** – Alfred Schwehofer

Mr. Schwehofer spoke about several happenings around the high school, highlighting many successes, activities and sports that students participate in.

- Senior interviews are on April 14. Each senior is allowed 3 interviews with professionals in their field.
- SAT AND PSAT testing begins next week.
- Alfred along with William Brackman had the opportunity to visit Dakota High School as part of Congresswoman McClain’s Congressional Youth Council.

- The Leadership Class will be visiting the Medilodge to help them start a seed garden. They are also working on teacher appreciation week, a rock painting campaign and continue to organize the loft above the GIC room.
- Sadie Dykstra took first place in the 60m hurdle race at the track competition at SVSU.
- Recently boys' golf won by a stroke against Sandusky. Softball, baseball, soccer and tennis are off to a great start.
- Seniors have 26 days of school left.

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 \$957,975.80.

Motion by Butler seconded by French to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report and approve monthly bills in the amount of \$957,975.80 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried

10. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**

A. Instruction and Personnel

1. Lindsey Arneil, Yale Elementary School Aide
2. Dale Carless, Yale High School Geometry in Construction
3. Jodi Schoenberg, Yale High School Custodian
4. Recommendations to the Substitute List

Motion by Hurlburt seconded by Butler to approve the personnel report as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried

11. **OLD BUSINESS: None**

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Seal & Stripe Bid Award

Motion by Butler seconded by Johnson to award the Seal & Stripe resealing project to Titan Pavement of Waterford, MI in the amount of \$40,660.00 as presented.

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried

B. Yale Elementary Secure Vestibule Bid Award

Motion by Butler seconded by Hurlburt to award the Yale Elementary secure vestibule and office project to Salski Construction of Fort Gratiot, MI in the amount of \$173,550.00 as presented.

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried

C. Scholarship Discussion (Eva Graham & Thelma Stewart)

- Reminder to scholarship committees to review and return applications.

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

- Superintendent Sutton, President Bullard and all the Board members gave kudos to Yale Elementary Principal Rick Carlson, Tracy Atkinson, Tara Jordan and students on the excellent exercise presentation.
- Mr. Bullard congratulated Yale High School Senior Jackson Kohler on winning the All State Basketball award two years in a row.
- Mr. Sutton reminded the Board of the March discussion for the Yale Educational Foundation. They discussed the option of applying for a license to allow the foundation to work a fundraiser,
- Mr. Sutton gave kudos to Garnett Kohler for organizing the Mock Interviews and to our Yale Art Teachers, Mrs. Nicol, Mrs. Beasley and Mrs. McCarty for teaching our students the value of art.

14. **ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS 7:55 PM**

MARK HURLBURT, SECRETARY
Yale Board of Education