Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

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MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, April 16, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Bill Hauss, Denise Hendrickson, Ryan Jewell, Frank King, Casey Shaw

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Hannah Hiiva, Rebecca Rankin, Kailey Slevin, Ayden Williams

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT
Holly Ackerman, DeeDee Buckingham, Kaiya Burgess, Lisa Cadero-Smith, Curtis Cleveringa, Craig Curry, Becki Fowler, Jodi Jarmin, 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

Volunteers of the Year
Building principals recognized and presented their respective Volunteers of the Year, highlighting the significant contributions and positive impact each volunteer has made within their school communities.

Robin Conlon *Fort Stevens*	Brittni Bracamonte *Lackamas*	Nicole Cross *McKenna*
Scott & Donna Cole *Mill Pond*	Lisa Thomas *Prairie*	Ashley Pylant & Maddy Bell *Southworth*
Aga Brockmoller *Ridgeline Middle School*	Bri Valentine *Yelm Middle School*	Jessica Kelso *Yelm High School*

Excellence in Facilities, Grounds and Maintenance Award
Supervisor of Maintenance and Grounds David Fox and Supervisor of Custodial Paul Manwiller recognized the following award nominees:

Excellence in Facilities, Grounds and Maintenance Award *Honoring the facilities, grounds, and maintenance professionals who ensure safe, clean, and well-maintained buildings and campuses, fostering a positive and supportive atmosphere for students and staff across the district.*
Angela Fowler & Dennis Thornton

Superintendent's Comments
Assistant Superintendent Lisa Cadero Smith presented an update on the district's attendance goal under Strategic Plan Goal 1, noting that 41.07% of students were chronically absent in the 2024–25 school year, with a target of reducing that rate to 20% by 2029–30. Chronic absenteeism was defined as missing 10% or more of school days for any reason.

She outlined current efforts, including implementation of evidence-based practices such as site-based attendance MTSS systems, weekly data monitoring, timely family outreach, and student-

centered interventions to address barriers. The district is also participating in OSPI's Attendance Community of Practice, focusing on consistent messaging, relationship-based communication, and proactive outreach.

The presentation included feedback from a districtwide attendance committee and external partners, identifying challenges such as student and family barriers, staffing limitations, inconsistent procedures, and policy gaps. Planned next steps include reviewing and strengthening Board Policy 3122, improving system consistency, enhancing staff collaboration, and increasing communication with families to support regular student attendance.

Community Comments
Comments were presented by Michael Blank.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED
March 26, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
M/Bill Hauss; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Susan Carlson	RMS Coach Assnt Cross Country	4/13/2026
Natalie McLaughlin	RMS Coach Assnt Volleyball	4/13/2026
Savannah Sederberg	FS OP III	4/13/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Molly Borland	PR Teacher Kindergarten	Resignation 8/31/2026
Chris Clark	YHS Assistant Principal	Resignation 6/30/2026
Heidi DeFord	YHS Coach Head Volleyball	Resignation 3/24/2026
Lori Gray	OSL Program Coordinator	Resignation 6/30/2026
Melanie La Madeleine	RMS Coach Assnt Cross Country	Resignation 3/23/2026
Justin McNeil	YMS Teacher ELA	Resignation 8/31/2026
Tabatha Nevy	PR Teacher 3rd Grade	Resignation 8/31/2026
Rex Norris	YHS Coach Head Football	Resignation 4/1/2026
Abdo Sleiman El Hakim	Paraeducator	Resignation 3/27/2026
STAFFING CHANGES:		
No Report		
REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT		
Samantha Beattie	LK Title/LAP	Long Term 4/13/2026
Brandon Borcher	YHS Math	Long Term 4/20/2026
STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
$32,381.00		

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED
William Obert, Support academics and counseling $100.00
RMS Booster Club, Spring Band Festival $250.00
Southworth Booster Club, Musical playground equipment $16,705.99
El Rey Burro, Sports Medicine meals ..... FMV $410.00

Rusty & Shari Parson, Bus notes – Prairie .....FMV $355.72
Gilliardi Logging & Construction, FFA Land Lab Materials .....FMV $803.00
Thurston County Cattlewomen, Books for Elementary Libraries.....FMV 100.00
M/Frank King; S/Bill Hauss; Motion carried unanimously.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL - APPROVED

1. YHS Anatomage Team, May 28-31, 2026, to Santa Clara, CA to participate in the National Anatomage Tournament, 4 students and 1 chaperone.
2. YHS FFA, May 4-5, 2026, to Ellensburg, WA to participate in the State Horse Judging CDE, 5 students and 1 chaperone.

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

MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

Students Jackson Grey and Mariah Gibson shared personal perspectives on what it is like to have a parent serving in the military. They spoke about the challenges of frequently relocating, including adjusting to new schools, building new friendships, and maintaining academic continuity. Their remarks highlighted both the difficulties and resilience associated with military family life and its impact on their educational experience.

RESOLUTION 07-25-26 - DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO WIAA – APPROVED

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

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A.	General Fund	# 70153906 – 70154039 #70154060 - 70154071	$1,634,523.31
B.	ASB Fund	# 70410065 - 70410084	$24,691.70
C.	Capital Projects Fund	# 70401874 - 70501875	$9,274.95
D.	Comp Tax	# 112300028 – 202100175	$478.82
E.	General ACH	# 9000000082- 9000000091	$1,253.93
F.	March Payroll		$6,423,265.02

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Director of Operations Teri Melone provided an update on current and upcoming work across the district. She reported on surplus processes and progress on spring projects, including repairs to a broken sewer pipe at Fort Stevens and efforts to address cooling issues in the server room.

Ms. Melone also shared a status update on required lead testing, including completion timelines, submission deadlines, and plans to present a final report to the Board in July. Additionally, she provided an update on transportation staffing and training, noting recent CDL test completions, upcoming testing schedules, and ongoing recruitment efforts following a recent job fair.

Public Works: APPROVED

Project #	Amount	Vendor/Reason
45.25	$1,877.69	Refrigeration Unlimited/Sea Temp – Oven Diagnostics & Repair – YMS
61.25	$1,345.41	INSI Inc. - Little House Fiber Connectors Replacement/Repair – LK
68.25	$1,719.15	Hurley Engineering - Steam Boiler Diagnostics and Repair – YHS
79.25	$808.94	Won-Door Corporation - WONDOOR Diagnostics & Repair – SW
81.25	$8,989.95	Hermanson Co LLP - VRF System Leak Diagnostics – YMS
84.25	$720.14	Yelm Glass Company - Library Window Glass Installation – PR
85.25	$1,611.23	Refrigeration Unlimited/Sea Temp - Milk Cooler Service Call – YMS
90.25	$1,178.60	Hermanson Co LLP - Mitsubishi VRF Systems Diagnostics – SW

93.25	$486.45	WA Fire Protection LLC - Security System Zone 18 False Troubleshoot – MK
95.25	$11,497.50	Hermanson Co LLP - Daikin VRV System Leak Repair – YMS
96.25	$649.80	WA Fire Protection LLC - Fire Alarm Pull Station Button Replacement – PR

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS
No additional report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

Apr 2026	5260 HC	5127.71 FTE (234.85 < 5443.00)
Mar 2026	5291 HC	5159.60 FTE (223.36 < 5443.00)
Mar 2025	5573 HC	

BOARD COMMENTS
Board members expressed appreciation for district staff, including teachers, maintenance, and support personnel, as well as for volunteers, community support, and military families. They highlighted the importance of providing student opportunities, including leadership and extracurricular activities.

The board also recognized the community's generosity through contributions and events and extended gratitude to military families for their service and sacrifice, noting the meaningful experiences of military-connected students.

Members acknowledged the value of volunteerism across the district and emphasized the importance of family engagement opportunities, such as informational meetings for incoming students and families. Additional comments included recognition of student leadership and public speaking, appreciation for volunteers, and thanks to McKenna Elementary School for the evening's event and student performances.

Overall, remarks reflected strong community pride, engagement, and support for students and district programs.

Student Representative Comments:
Student and board comments highlighted appreciation for recent school events, particularly the unicycle performance, which was described as engaging and memorable. Speakers noted the importance of attendance initiatives and commended the district's focus on building strong habits early in students' academic careers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
The superintendent shared updates on family engagement, noting conference attendance rates of 68–87% at elementary schools, 36–39% at middle schools, and 27% at the high school. He indicated that the district would continue evaluating the effectiveness of secondary conferences and engage staff and families in considering improvements.

The superintendent also reported on elementary comprehensive sexual health parent meetings, noting low attendance but positive feedback from those who participated, who felt informed to make decisions for their children. He thanked staff for their work in supporting these efforts.

He concluded by expressing appreciation to the board for their support.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:47 p.m.

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