Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

107 First Street North • Yelm, WA 98597 • (360) 458-1900 • *www.ycs.wednet.edu*

MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, May 28, 2026

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Rebecca Rankin, Kailey Slevin

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT
DeeDee Buckingham, Lisa Cadero-Smith, Curtis Cleveringa, Craig Curry, Becki Fowler, Jodi Jarmin, Teri Melone, Shannon Powell, Starla Watson, Chris Woods

CALLED TO ORDER
Vice President Bill Hauss called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE
Board Recognition

Distinguished Leadership Award
Honoring District office and building leaders who demonstrate exceptional vision, leadership, and dedication, fostering a culture of excellence, collaboration, and student success throughout the district.

YCS District Office	DeeDee Buckingham *Director of Human Resources*
Lackamas Elementary	Starla Watson *School Principal*

Superintendent's Comments
Superintendent Chris Woods introduced Chelsea Richardson as the new Assistant Principal for Yelm Middle School, filling the position vacated by Kaiya Burgess's transition to Ridgeline Middle School. Ms. Richardson joins the district from Olympia School District, where she served as a school counselor at Centennial Elementary. Superintendent Woods and Yelm Middle School Principal Mark Bowden highlighted her outstanding performance throughout the interview process and shared that numerous colleagues had reached out to strongly endorse her as an exceptional educator and leader. Ms. Richardson expressed her excitement about joining the Yelm Middle School team and introduced members of her family who attended the meeting. The Board welcomed Ms. Richardson and her family to the district.

Community Comments
Comments were presented by Matthew Sturtz, Will Gunstrom and Thomasina Cooper.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED
April 16, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Frank King; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Catherine Mullins	YHS Coach Assnt Volleyball	9/1/2026
Chelsea Richardson	YMS Assistant Principal	7/1/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Jeffrey Adams	Director of Transportation	Resignation 6/30/2026
Brice Bere-Ruiz	OSS BSA	Resignation 9/8/2026
Jenna Burnham	Facilities Custodian	Resignation 5/21/2026
Bree Carson	YES ESA School Counselor	Resignation 8/31/2026
Joni DeBoise	Food Service Satellite Cook	Resignation 6/10/2026
Tannah Evans	OSS BSA	Resignation 6/10/2026
Nataly Green	PR SPED Paraeducator	Resignation 6/10/2026
Jamie King	MP SPED Paraeducator	Resignation 5/15/2026
Debra Miles	YHS OP V	Resignation Update 7/31/2026
Tabatha Nevy	PR Teacher 3rd Grade	Resignation to Retirement Correction from 4/16/2026
Rex Norris	YHS Teacher Health/PE	Resignation 8/31/2026
Mark Phillips	YHS Coach Head Soccer	Resignation 5/15/2025
Rick Sargent	MP Teacher 5th Grade	Resignation 8/31/2026
Emileigh Wilhelme	MP Student Specific Paraeducator	Resignation 6/18/2026
Carrie Williams	Transportation Bus Assistant	Retirement 6/10/2026
REDUCTION IN FORCE:		
Jennifer Brownell	Business Office – Fiscal Coordinator	Per approved Reduced Education Plan on 5/14/2026
William Gunstrom	YHS Campus Security	Per approved Reduced Education Plan on 5/14/2026
Rebekah Hume	OSS LPN	Per approved Reduced Education Plan on 5/14/2026
Kiersten Slevin	Human Resources – HR Coordinator	Per approved Reduced Education Plan on 5/14/2026
Matthew Sturtz	YHS Campus Security	Per approved Reduced Education Plan on 5/14/2026
STAFFING CHANGES:		
Kari Polzin	HR Coordinator to YHS OP V	8/31/2026
REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT		
Aaron Johnson	FS SPED	Long Term Sub 5/18/2026
Ryan Hominda	RMS History/AVID	Long Term Sub 5/18/2026
STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
$26,850.01		

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED

Yelm FFA Alumni, FFA State Convention $10,000.00
Fort Stevens Booster Club, Science on Wheels $1,600.000
Rebecca and Dan Huttmann, FFA State Convention $200.00
Sutter Metals, Lackamas ASB $100.00
Harmony Lodge No. 18, Bikes for Literacy – all Elementaries $1,5000.00
Gamer Graph-x, Sports Medicine Shirts ..... FMV $250.00
Washington Rock Quarries, 5 yards dirt for playground SW ..... FMV $500.00
M/Frank King; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL - APPROVED

1. YHS FBLA, June 27-July 3, 2026, to San Antonio, TX, to participate in the National Leadership Conference, 2 students and 1 chaperone.
2. YHS Choir, May 13-16, 2027, to Los Angeles, CA, to participate in the Southern California performance tour, 60-80 students and multiple chaperones.

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

POLICY REPLACEMENTS SECOND READING – APPROVED

CATEGORY	POLICY	ACTION
Critical	3122 Excused and Unexcused Absences	Replacement
Critical	3122 Procedure	Replacement

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

YELM HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY – APPROVED

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

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A.	General Fund	# 70154072 – 70154222	$1,391,538.58
B.	ASB Fund	# 70410085 - 70410099	$39,983.85
C.	Capital Projects Fund	# 70401876 - 70501876	$5,143.20
D.	Comp Tax	# 112300029 – 11230029	$1,509.66
E.	General ACH	# 9000000092- 9000000133	$41,250.54
F.	April Payroll		$6,403,505.44

M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Director of Operations Teri Melone provided an update on district operations and capital projects. The report included progress on the YHS 400 HVAC replacement project, YHS portable replacement project, and YHS LED lighting project, including project timelines, equipment procurement, and construction planning.

Ms. Melone also reviewed the district's response to lead testing results, including Department of Health requirements, mitigation and remediation planning, fixture replacement and retesting, and the development of an action plan for Board review and public communication.

An update was provided on the 2026–27 school meal program, with several schools continuing to offer free meals through federal and state funding programs. Staff will launch free and reduced-price meal applications in August to maintain eligibility requirements where applicable.

The report concluded with a facilities and maintenance update, including ongoing HVAC repairs and efforts to address identified equipment issues.

Public Works: APPROVED

Project #	Amount	Vendor/Reason
82.25	$558.61	Security Solutions NW – Electronic Door Repair – LK
83.25	$1,454.71	Security Solutions NW – Electronic Door Repair – PR
88.25	$405.15	Danard Electric Inc – Traffic Beacons Diagnostics – MAINT
94.25	$2,518.50	Drain Pro – Drain Cleaning/Back Up Service Call – FS
97.25	$1,071.46	Hermanson Co LLP – Daikin VRF System - No Heat in 6 Classrooms Troubleshoot – MP
98.25	$750.02	Hermanson Co LLP – Daikin RM32 System Troubleshoot – MP
103.25	$438.00	WA Fire Protection LLC – FA Troubleshoot Service Call – TRANS
104.25	$4,960.35	Drain Pro – Jet Sewer & Blockage Locate/Cleanout – FS
105.25	$729.68	Drain Pro – Septic Alarm Troubleshoot Service Call – MK
110.25	$3,438.93	Drain Pro – Pump Septic Tank – MK

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

No additional report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

May 2026	5241 HC	5106.28 FTE (246.17 < 5443.00)
Apr 2026	5260 HC	5127.71 FTE (234.85 < 5443.00)
May 2025	5533 HC	

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members expressed appreciation to community members who attended the meeting and provided public comments. They congratulated Starla Watson on her recognition and wished her well in her future endeavors, noting her positive impact on students and staff. Board members welcomed Chelsea Richardson to the district and community.

Comments highlighted recent student activities, including the YHS Choir Concert and the FFA Banquet, with praise for student participation, leadership, and accomplishments. Members also thanked donors and community partners, particularly for their support of FFA programs and student opportunities.

Board members expressed support for the district's efforts to improve student attendance and emphasized the importance of student engagement and success. They also encouraged community collaboration and unity in supporting students and schools, noting that working together strengthens opportunities for all students.

Several members shared their anticipation for the upcoming District Awards Night and recognized the value of celebrating student achievements.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Chris Woods highlighted the success of the recent YHS Choir Concert, commending students and staff for an engaging performance and strong community attendance. He recognized several administrators and staff members who will be departing the district, including Starla Watson, Craig Curry, Chris Clark, and Jeff Adams, and expressed appreciation for their service and contributions to the district.

Mr. Woods reviewed upcoming district events, including Community Awards Night, District Awards Night, graduation ceremonies, and the Special Programs Graduation. He encouraged Board members to attend these celebrations recognizing student achievement.

He also congratulated student-athlete and Kaylee Slevin for setting a new school record and recognized the district's student representatives for their leadership and service throughout the year. Mr. Woods shared his appreciation for opportunities to connect with student representatives and celebrate their accomplishments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:53 P.M.

Vice President Bill Hauss recessed the regular meeting at 6:53 p.m. for an executive session to review the performance of a public employee RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). He stated the board would take a five-minute break and be in executive session until 7:30 p.m. The board is expected to take further action following the executive session.

At 7:30 p.m., Vice President Bill Hauss announced that the executive session would be extended for 20 minutes until 7:50 p.m.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION – 7:52 P.M.

Vice President Bill Hauss called the meeting back to order at 7:52 p.m. He announced that the board was returning from an executive session, during which they reviewed the performance of a public employee.

SUPERINTENDENTS CONTRACT – APPROVED

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

ADJOURNMENT – 7:53 p.m.

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