Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

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MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, June 25, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

DeeDee Buckingham, Lisa Cadero-Smith, Curtis Cleveringa, Kurt Fourre, Teri Melone, Felecia Stenbakken, Chris Woods

CALLED TO ORDER

President Casey Shaw called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE

Strategic Plan Update

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Cadero-Smith and Director of Assessment Kurt Fourre presented an update on the first year of implementation of the district's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.
Ms. Cadero-Smith reviewed the Strategic Plan roadmap, noting that the 2025–26 school year served as the launch year, focusing on establishing systems, developing baseline data, creating performance dashboards, and building a shared understanding of the district's goals. She highlighted the district's work throughout the year, including reviewing implementation progress, analyzing district data, gathering feedback from principals and the community, and identifying priorities for the next phase of implementation.

Mr. Fourre presented Year 1 progress data aligned to the Strategic Plan goals. Highlights included improvements in regular student attendance at several schools, upward trends in student achievement on the Smarter Balanced Assessments, strong classroom-level performance in English language arts and mathematics, improved ninth grade on-track rates, and benchmark growth data demonstrating student academic progress across the district. He also shared growth results for students receiving specialized services and identified several district strengths, including improved data transparency, stronger alignment between school improvement efforts and district goals, and increased community engagement in the planning process.

The presentation concluded with the district's three primary focus areas for the 2026–27 school year:

- Improving student attendance through consistent expectations, early intervention, and supportive outreach.
- Strengthening Tier 1 instruction across all classrooms to improve student outcomes and reduce the need for intervention.
- Engaging the community in support of the November 3, 2026, levy through transparent communication, relationship building, and community involvement.

The Board received the report and discussed the district's continued transition from the launch phase to focused implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Chris Woods provided several district updates. He reported a significant increase in public records requests, with 91 requests received to date for the 2025–26 school year, compared to 34 in 2023–24. He noted the district has added a part-time staff member to assist with

processing requests due to the extensive time required to review, redact, and respond in compliance with state law. He also shared that statewide discussions regarding potential legislative changes to the Public Records Act are ongoing.

- The Board received an update on the timeline for a potential November 2026 levy, noting that a resolution would need to be approved prior to the August 4 filing deadline.
- The Superintendent provided updates on administrative staffing, including the ongoing Prairie Elementary principal selection process and plans to appoint an interim principal at Fort Stevens Elementary for the 2026–27 school year following the current principal's departure.
- An update was also provided on the Blue Fern development located within the Rainier School District boundaries. The Superintendent explained that Yelm Community Schools has no current action required but will continue coordinating with Rainier School District as the development progresses. He also reviewed the process required for any future school district boundary changes.
- Finally, the Superintendent announced that beginning with the Class of 2027, Yelm High School graduation will be held at St. Martin's University rather than the Tacoma Dome. The change will reduce facility costs from approximately $21,500 to $6,100 while continuing to provide an indoor venue and livestream option for families.

Community Comments
Comments were presented by E. Wyatt Mendel.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED
May 14, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
May 28, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
June 4, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
M/Bill Hauss; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Danielle Allison	OSS ESA Speech Lang Path.	9/9/2026
Memphis Barney	YHS Coach Assnt Football	9/1/2026
Veronica Birdsong	Business Office – Director of Finance	7/1/2026
Rachel Bolt	YHS Teacher PE/Health	9/9/2026
Stuart Des Rochers	YHS Teacher Athletic Director	9/9/2026
Brenna Gehrke	RMS ESA School Counselor	9/9/2026
Andy Macdonald	YHS Coach Head Boys Golf	9/1/2026
Cynthia Penaloza-Soto	YHS Teacher Spanish	9/9/2026
Nicole Scheuerman	YHS Coach Girls Cross Country	9/1/2026
Andrew Van Velzer	OSS ESA School Psychologist	9/9/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Holly Ackerman	PR Principal	Resignation 6/30/2026
Trecy Beauchamp	SW Teacher SPED	Resignation 8/31/2026
Walter Bratton	FS Teacher 3rd Grade	Resignation 8/31/2026
Molly Brix	LK Teacher 3rd Grade	Resignation 8/31/2026
Jeffrey Burgess	YHS Teacher CTE	Resignation 8/31/2026

Stephen Capen	YHS Coach Head Boys Golf	Resignation 5/18/2026
Liliana Cortez	OSS Paraeducator SPED LRC	Resignation 6/30/2026
Joni De Boise	Food Service Satellite Cook	From Resignation to *Retirement* 6/30/2026
Vernon Doak	Transportation Bus Driver	Resignation 5/28/2026
Sarah Fisk	MP Teacher Special Ed LRC	Resignation 8/31/2026
Jacob Jansen	PR Paraeducator SPED Programs	Resignation 6/30/2026
Emily Macias	YMS Teacher Math	Resignation 8/31/2026
Mike McClellan	YHS Coach Head Boys & Girls Tennis	*Retirement* 5/26/2026
Mindy Noland	OSS Teacher SPED Deaf/Blind	Resignation 8/31/2026
Rex Norris	YHS Coach Strength & Cond. .5 pos.	Resignation (split position) 5/21/2026
Alexandra Roe	YMS Paraeducator Student Specific	Resignation 6/30/2026
Jannalee Reed	FS SPED Paraeducator	*Retirement* 6/30/2026
Rebecca Reintzell	Transportation Bus Driver	*Retirement* 6/30/2026
Jennifer Ryle	MP Paraeducator Instructional	Resignation 6/30/2026
Maria Sackmann	YMS Teacher PE	Resignation 8/31/2026
Garrett Spivey	SW Teacher 3rd Grade	Resignation 8/31/2026
Alicia Weiser	YHS Teacher SPED	Resignation 8/31/2026
Madison White	MK Paraeducator SPED Student Specific	Resignation 6/30/2026
Debbie Wilson	Transportation Bus Driver	*Retirement* 6/30/2026
REDUCTION IN FORCE:		
Lindsey Mathis	OSS ESA School Nurse	Non-renewal 8/31/2026
STAFFING CHANGES:		
Monica Allen	YHS Paraeducator to Library Tech	9/1/2026
Betty Bent	YHS to YHS Cafeteria Worker	9/1/2026
Laura Brewer	MK 5th Grade to YMS History Teacher	9/9/2026
Jenny LeTempt	FS to MP Special Ed	9/9/2026
Amber Sheldon	MK 5th Grade to YMS Math Teacher	9/9/2026
Kelly Sturtz	FS Intervention to YMS ELA Teacher	9/9/2026
REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT		
No Report		
STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
$83,310.00		

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED

Southworth Booster Club, Field Day $200.00
Capital City Marathon, YHS Cross Country $1,500.00
M/Bill Hauss; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL - APPROVED

1. YHS FFA to Indianapolis, IN, Oct 19-24, 2026, to compete in the National FFA Convention, 5 students and 2 chaperones.

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

2026-27 INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PUGET SOUND ESD – APPROVED

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

POLICY REVISION – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

5310 Compensation Schedule

ACCEPTANCE OF foundry10 GRANT SUPPORTING HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS – APPROVED

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

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A. General Fund	# 70154243 – 70154374	$1,096,309.87
B. ASB Fund	# 70410100 - 70410122	$44,293.51
C. Capital Projects Fund	# 70501877 - 70501878	$11,706.75
D. General/ASB ACH	#9000000134 – 9000000182	$42,700.95
E. Comp Tax	# 112300030 – 202100176	$684.54
F. TVF	# 70700047 - 70700048	$579,652.52
G. May Payroll		$6,610,079.97

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Operations Director Teri Melone provided an update on summer operations and capital improvement projects. She reported that demolition has begun for the YHS 400 Building HVAC replacement project, with equipment expected to arrive and installation to begin the following week. Preparations for the YHS Portable 13/14 replacement project are also underway, including utility disconnections, scheduled Fire Department training in July, and building demolition. A replacement portable has been ordered.

Ms. Melone also updated the Board on the YHS LED Lighting Grant, noting that the district is reviewing the Department of Commerce contract and anticipates fixture replacement by June 2027 once the contract is approved.

The Board received an update on the district's lead testing action plan. Fixtures testing between 6–15 parts per billion have been designated for handwashing only, while fixtures testing at 16 parts per billion or higher have been taken out of service. The district is pursuing an OSPI grant to assist with fixture replacement, and the Lead Testing Action Plan will be presented to the Board for approval at the July meeting.

Public Works: APPROVED

Project #	Amount	Vendor/Reason
48.24	$1,077,128.17	Andy Johnson & Co Inc. – Tenant Improvements – TRANS
69.25	$7,109.55	Hurley Engineering – Annual Boiler Maintenance – RMS
100.25	$960.30	T & M Mechanical – Stair Handrail Repair – YMS
106.25	$17,082.00	Drain Pro – Sewer Line Repair – FS
109.25	$1,713.68	Hurley Engineering - Boiler#2 Diagnostics & Repair – RMS
113.25	$551.15	Hermanson Co LLP - Heat Pump 19 Troubleshoot – MK
114.25	$7,544.30	Hermanson Co LLP - Heat Pump 19 Compressor & Contactor Replacement – MK
116.25	$3,421.88	Wood & Link Fence Co – Chain Link Fence Repair – YHS
117.25	$1,536.85	Hermanson Co LLP - Thermostat Kit & Transmission Wire Replacement - SW
119.25	$1,804.56	Hermanson Co LLP - 100/200 BLDG AHU-1 and AHU-4 Troubleshoot & Repair – YHS

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS
No additional report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

June 2026	5197 HC	5065.70 FTE (259.28 < 5443.00)
May 2026	5241 HC	5106.28 FTE (246.17 < 5443.00)
June 2025	5242 HC	

BOARD COMMENTS
Board members shared reflections on the close of the school year, congratulating the Class of 2026 and expressing appreciation for graduation ceremonies and year-end student celebrations.

Board members requested that the district provide a timeline outlining actions taken in response to a recent reported incident, including notifications to Child Protective Services, law enforcement, and the district's third-party investigator, to help clarify the sequence of events for the community.

Members also expressed appreciation for district staff's work throughout the school year, recognizing that employees continue working throughout the summer months. The Board celebrated the district's recent athletics grant award and acknowledged the difficult budget decisions facing the district.

Several members encouraged respectful and constructive community dialogue, emphasizing the importance of working together to rebuild trust, support volunteers, and strengthen the district's ability to move forward. Additional comments included support for the upcoming Yelm Football Boosters golf tournament and recognition of the upcoming Independence Day holiday.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Superintendent Chris Woods emphasized that district staff and Board members are committed to the safety, well-being, and success of students and strive to act in the best interests of the district each day. He encouraged community members to assume positive intentions, engage in respectful dialogue, and seek understanding before reaching conclusions, noting that constructive conversations lead to stronger partnerships and help retain quality educators and staff.

To encourage open communication, Superintendent Woods proposed hosting a Community Feedback Forum prior to the July 16 Board meeting. The Board supported exploring the opportunity to provide a structured setting for community members to share feedback, ask questions, and engage in constructive dialogue with district leadership.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:30 p.m.

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