Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

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MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, July 16, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hauss, Denise Hendrickson, Ryan Jewell, Frank King

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Veronica Birdsong, Kaiya Burgess, Teri Melone, Chris Woods

CALLED TO ORDER

Vice President Bill Hauss called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

AUDIENCE

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Chris Woods introduced Veronica Birdsong, the district's new Director of Finance. Birdsong most recently served as Director of Financial Services for Tacoma Public Schools and previously served as Chief Financial Officer for the Tukwila School District. Woods shared that references provided highly positive feedback about Birdsong and noted that she has already demonstrated initiative and has been a strong addition to the district team. He expressed appreciation for her willingness to join the district during a challenging financial period and noted that her appointment will provide needed support to staff who have been covering multiple responsibilities.

Woods also followed up on questions raised during community comments at the June 25 Board meeting regarding a former transportation employee. He confirmed that the Board received a timeline of the investigation on June 26, as requested, as well as the comprehensive third-party investigation conducted by Clear Risk, the district's risk management provider. Woods stated that when the district became aware of the allegations, the employee was immediately placed on administrative leave and Clear Risk was contacted to conduct an investigation, which also involved notification to law enforcement and Child Protective Services.

Finally, Woods shared that he plans to meet with representatives from local media and community members to discuss ways they may support the district if it moves forward with a future levy.

Community Comments

Comments were presented by E. Wyatt Mendel and Angela Taylor.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED

June 25, 2026 – Regular Business Meeting
M/Ryan Jewell; S/Frank King; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Jacob Nolan	YHS Coach Head Strength & Cond.	6/19/2026 Split Position
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		

Name	Position	Effective Date
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Julie Cook	OSS Program Coordinator	6/30/2026 Resignation
Lisa Crowell	FS Principal	6/30/2026 Resignation
Kristi Eckroth	MP Teacher Music	8/31/2026 Resignation
Tara Longfellow	LK Teacher Special Education LRC	8/31/2026 Resignation
William Warren	RMS Teacher History	8/31/2026 Resignation
STAFFING CHANGES:		
Rhondalee Maher	RMS Para to MP Teacher Special Education	9/9/2026
Bryant Mettler	YHS SPED Case Manager to PR Principal	7/1/2026
Teresa Schultz	SW Assistant Principal to FS Principal	7/1/2026 One-Year Only 2026-2027
REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT		
No Report		
STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
$84,682.00		

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED

Sharon Gordon, Raising Girls – 60 Hygiene Bags.....FMV $900.00
M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL - APPROVED

1. YHS FFA to Yakima, WA, July 29-31, 2026, for district officer training, 1 student and 1 chaperone.
   M/Frank King; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

YAEOP CONTRACT 2026-2029 – APPROVED

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

POLICY REVISION – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

5310 Compensation Schedule

2026-27 MISSING ASSETS FROM INVENTORY – APPROVED

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

2026-27 MEAL PRICES – APPROVED

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

LEAD TESTING ACTION PLAN – APPROVED

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

POLICY REVISIONS – FIRST READING – FOR REVIEW

Category	Policy	Action
Important	6881 Disposal of Surplus Equipment and/or Materials	Revisions
Important	6881 Procedure	Revisions
Critical	6801 Capital Assets/Theft-Sensitive Assets	Revisions
Critical	6801 Procedure	Revisions

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A. General Fund	# 70154394 – 70154534	$1,129,347.72
B. ASB Fund	# 70410123 - 70410155	$60,016.06
C. Capital Projects Fund	# 70501879 - 70501879	$37,069.56
D. ACH	#9000000183 – 9000000249	$65,459.01
E. Comp Tax	# 112300031 – 202100177	$211.54
F. June Payroll		$7,255,677.24

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Director of Operations Teri Melone provided an update on summer maintenance and construction projects throughout the district. Custodial staff are completing extensive summer cleaning, including classroom and floor maintenance, despite reduced staffing and limited schedules. She recognized the maintenance, grounds, and custodial teams for their continued dedication and efforts to prepare schools for students and staff.

Several facility projects have been completed, including repairs at Fort Stevens and roofing and ventilation improvements at Yelm High School. Work is also underway on the YHS 400 Building indoor air quality project, funded through an OSPI grant. The project includes replacement of gas furnaces, installation of heating and air conditioning equipment, new controls and related infrastructure, with construction targeted for completion by mid-August. Additional monitoring will continue to ensure compliance with grant requirements for air quality and energy efficiency.

Melone also reported that demolition of the fire-damaged portable is scheduled to begin, and a replacement portable has been ordered, although an installation timeline has not yet been determined.

PUBLIC WORKS: APPROVED

Project #	Amount	Vendor/Reason
80.25	$642.22	SME Solutions LLC – Fuel Pump Diagnostic & Repair – TRANS
101.25	$1,801.28	Pye-Barker Fire & Security (formerly known as Cascade Fire & Security) – Dry System Service Call – TRANS
115.25	$3,119.11	Pye-Barker Fire & Security – Emergency Dry System Service Call – YMS
122.25	$1,459.35	Drain Pro – Float Replacement – MK
123.25	$789.50	Hermanson Co LLP - RM32 HVAC Unit & Thermostat Troubleshoot – MP
124.25	$438.00	WA Fire Protection LLC - Troubleshoot FA Panel in Supervisory Alarm – YMS
130.25	$892.39	Hermanson Co LLP - Warm Daikin VRF System Troubleshoot & Repair – PR
131.25	$1,673.24	Hermanson Co LLP - No AC in C-POD Troubleshoot & Repair – PR
134.25	$2,190.00	Drain Pro - Annual Grease Pump Service – YHS
135.25	$2,193.08	Drain Pro - Annual Grease Pump Service – LK
	Correction of Project Amount reported on June Board Report Memo:	
117.25	$1,682.85*	Hermanson Co LLP - Thermostat Kit & Transmission Wire Replacement – SW *Amount previously reported was $1,536.85 pretax. Total cost of project is $1,682.85 with tax.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS
No additional report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT
No Report

BOARD COMMENTS
Board members thanked community members who attended the Community Feedback Forum and expressed appreciation for the respectful exchange of differing perspectives. Members emphasized the value of face-to-face conversations, community participation, and open dialogue in helping the district move forward.

Board members also recognized district staff whose work often occurs behind the scenes, including maintenance, custodial, food service, and transportation employees, and expressed appreciation for their continued work throughout the summer. The Yelm Booster Club was recognized for its successful Eye of the Storm golf tournament.

Discussion also included plans to gather and share financial and operational information regarding potential graduation venues, including the Tacoma Dome, Saint Martin's University, and Yelm High School, to provide the community with a clearer understanding of the costs and considerations associated with each option. Board members also welcomed new Director of Finance Veronica Birdsong to the district.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Superintendent Chris Woods emphasized the value of face-to-face communication and encouraged community members to participate in future forums and discussions. He stated that the district will not engage in discussions or respond to comments on social media but remains committed to sharing information and having productive conversations in person. He welcomed differing viewpoints and noted that respectful discussion, even when participants disagree, is important to strengthening the district and community.

Superintendent Woods also expressed appreciation for year-round staff working throughout the summer to prepare facilities for the return of students and staff. He acknowledged the challenges facing operations staff due to reduced staffing and financial resources and thanked David Fox for highlighting the important work performed behind the scenes.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:57 p.m.

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