YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Yale Junior High Central Office Board Room
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order
   President Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call
   Members Present: Bullard, Butler, French, Hurlburt, McClelland, Johnson, Brancaccio
   Members Absent: None
   Also Present: Superintendent Kurt Sutton, Assistant Superintendent Bill Kryscynski Business Services Director Beky Silkworth. Secretary to the Board Nancy Maplethorpe, Yale Expositor Reporter Dave Frederick, Mike Butler, Kathleen Hooper, Joanne Faille and Dru Runnals.

3. Adoption of the Agenda
   Motion by Hurlburt seconded by Butler to adopt the agenda as presented.
   Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried

4. Consent Agenda
   Approval of Meeting Minutes
   Workshop/Regular Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2026
   Motion by Hurlburt seconded by French to adopt the consent agenda as presented.
   Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried

5. Correspondence
   Superintendent Sutton presented his prepared topics for the Bond Proposal presentation that he will deliver at public forums.

6. Superintendent's Report
   Superintendent Sutton read his report which contained the following information:
   - If you've visited the high school athletic entrance you may have noticed the new display for the Athletics Wall of Fame. We greatly appreciate the work Mr. Bearss did to make this project a reality over the last few weeks.
   - Our summer projects are nearing completion with the GSRP building getting some shelving and storage added, while the secure vestibule project at Yale Elementary awaits inspections from the state. As soon as we get the approvals, we will be moving files, supplies, and materials to the new office at Yale Elementary.
   - We will be holding informational bond proposal meetings for community members throughout the district starting in just a few weeks. On Monday, September 21 at 6:30 PM where will be an informational meeting in Emmett at the Emmett Village Office. On Monday, September 28 another informational meeting will be held at 6:30 PM at Avoca Elementary. On Monday, October 5 at 6:30 PM we will have another community meeting at Yale Elementary for anyone interested in learning about the November ballot proposal. There may be additional meetings in October, which will be shared at a later date.
   - We are just a few weeks away from our annual Alumni Luncheon which is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 at 11:30 AM in the Yale High School Cafeteria. This is for alumni that have graduated from Yale High School and been out of school for fifty or more years. It is one of the best events of the year as it kicks off Homecoming Week. Our Homecoming game is Friday, October 2 at 7:00 PM against Croswell-Lexington. The parade will begin at 6:00 PM.
   - Last week brought some challenging weather conditions for athletic events and the dismissal of our elementary schools. Our staff did an outstanding job in all circumstances at athletic events or within the schools as staff followed our training related severe weather warnings that resulted in delays and/or cancellations to games and dismissals.

7. Public Participation
   A. Special Guests: None
   B. Agenda Items: None
   C. Non-Agenda Items: None

8. Reports
   A. Buildings and Grounds
      Superintendent Sutton presented/read the Buildings and Grounds report which contained the following:
      - Salski Construction completed the opening for the roll up door in the C.I classroom at the high school. The door itself has a little bit of a lead time, but should be installed within the next few weeks.
      - The boiler work at the Avoca and Farrell Elementary is still on-going. They currently have the boilers in place at Farrell and are working on the piping. At Avoca they have the concrete pads for the boilers poured, but haven't started the installation of the boilers.
      - The GSRP has passed all of the final building inspections required from the state.
      - The Yale Elementary secured entry vestibule is for the most part completed. The only hold up currently, is getting approval from the state for the few fire alarm modifications that were needed. Once these are completed they'll be able to call for the final inspection.

   B. Finance
      Director Silkworth presented/read her report which contained the following:
      - District books are closed for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the auditors will submit a preliminary report for the business office. Special thanks to the business office team – Kathleen and Jill – for the hard work and dedication to accuracy all during the year.
      - The auditor report to the Board is scheduled for the October 8 Regular Board meeting.
      - The August State Aid payment to the district included almost $150,000 of additional funds for retirement costs.
      - The three elementary school kitchens are needing some equipment upgrades. Mrs. Faille and Mrs. Silkworth are working together to prepare a bid.

   C. Instruction and Personnel
      Assistant Superintendent Kryscynski presented the Instruction and Personnel Report (attached) which contained the following:
      1. Hiring
         A. Catherine (Katie) Jedrzejczak, Instructional/Non-Instructional Aide Yale Elementary
         B. Amber Wiseman, Bus Driver
         C. Elizabeth Jowett, Bus Driver
         D. Edward Rush, Bus Driver
         E. Kenzie Nikkel, Farrell Elementary Teacher
         F. Gordon Farnsworth, Yale High School CTE Teacher
         G. Nichole Compagnoni, Avoca Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional
         H. Jessica Nieporte, Bus Driver
         I. Katherine Kesner, Avoca Elementary Instructional/Non-Instructional Aide
         J. Ashley Pattenaude, Avoca Elementary Title l Paraprofessional Aide
         K. Mykayla Arizola, Avoca Elementary Children's Center Closer/GSRP Aide
         L. Kristi Morosky, Avoca Elementary Teacher
      2. Recommendations to the Substitute List

      Curriculum/Instruction:
      - The beginning of the year professional development went well. K-2 teachers received an overview of the new MDE Dyslexia Law-approved curriculum (UFLI) with the help of our RESA ELA Consultant.
        - Other teachers worked on building competency-based units in math as well as looking to update our report cards with our Portrait of a Learner Great Traits.

- The junior high continued their learning on ways to leverage AI to enhance lessons and experience for students.
- The high school worked on moving Algebra I to a competency-based model, while others continued to work on badging and micro-credentials.

- M-STEP scores were released over the holiday weekend.
- We have completed almost every step of our GSRP move to the new building.

D. Transportation

Superintendent Sutton read the Transportation report (attached) which contained the following:

- Transportation Registration: We had over 350 families respond requesting transportation this school year, which has increased our rider count from the start. Changes were made on all routes, however, there are more riders it seems this year.
- Opening Day: There were a few mishaps with students not being registered so buses ran a little later than normal but it improved for the second day.
- Bus Safety: The junior high will be on the half-day, September 30th and the elementary buildings will be scheduled in October.
- New Driver: All the new drivers are doing a great job. They have been able to familiarize themselves with the students and they are enjoying being part of our department. We also had another driver pass the road test, Dale Thompson, he is riding with the drivers to familiarize himself with the district and routes.

E. Other: None

9. Items for Board Discussion

A. Board Governance Committee
- Next meeting will be Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 PM to view new Board policies from Thrun.

B. Board Buildings & Grounds
- Mrs. Butler reported on tonight's meeting topics which were discussing the 2026 project list updates, the November 2026 Bond Proposal, baseball/softball dugouts, three-year project planning and the Brockway Township property sale.

C. Property RFP Discussion
- As the district did not receive any response to the August 26 bid opening, the board discussed alternate sale options at this time.

D. SCCASB Representative
- Mr. Hurlburt indicated the group has not met yet but expects to in October.

E. MASB Legislative Liaison
- Mr. Johnson reminded the Board of the Leadership Conference in Lansing October 15-18 and gave a brief overview of many legislative topics.

F. Yale Secretarial Association Contract Approval
- Mr. Sutton indicated the contract mostly addressed moving wages up to be competitive in the area. Contract approval at Thursday's Regular Board meeting.

G. Board Self Evaluation
- Mr. Bullard said he appreciated the candid dialogue at the August meeting.

H. Apparel, Graphics & Sign Vendor List
- Mrs. Silkworth prepared a vendor list which was included in the September Board Packet. Mr. Hurlburt is a vendor in this category and will abstain from voting on the approval at Thursday's Regular Board meeting.

I. MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly
- Mr. Bullard is the only Board member able to attend this year and will be the district's delegate.

J. Bond Proposal – Informational Flyer, Postcard
- Mr. Sutton said that the mailer/post card should be mailed by the end of this month.

10. Comments from Board Members, Administration
    - Superintendent Sutton thanked the staff for a great start to the new school year and invited all to visit the new display for the Athletics Wall of Fame created by Brian Bearss.
    - President Bullard said it was good to be back and thanked the coaches, parents and staffing when the recent storm went through and how it was handled professionally by all involved.

11. Adjournment by Consensus at 6:49 PM.

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DR ABBY BRANCACCIO, SECRETARY
YALE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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