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, August 13, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hauss, Denise Hendrickson, Ryan Jewell, Frank King

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Veronica Birdsong, DeeDee Buckingham, Teri Melone, Shannon Powell, Chris Woods

CALLED TO ORDER

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

AUDIENCE

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Chris Woods reviewed the annual Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance Survey, which school districts are required to complete each year. The self-reporting survey addresses 22 areas of compliance, including instructional hours and days, graduation requirements, curriculum, and course offerings. Superintendent Woods noted that Board approval is not required and provided the information for Board awareness.

Superintendent Woods discussed a sponsorship proposal developed by the Yelm High School Booster Club to generate additional funding for student athletics and extracurricular activities impacted by the loss of levy funding. The proposal would allow local businesses to purchase sponsorships and receive recognition through banners at approved district locations. The Booster Club would manage recruitment, banner production, installation, maintenance, and funds, while the district would provide oversight to ensure advertising is appropriate and consistent with district policies. Board members expressed support for allowing the Booster Club to manage the program. Superintendent Woods will follow up with Booster Club leadership and provide additional information regarding implementation and district oversight.

Superintendent Woods provided a financial update as the district closes the 2025–26 fiscal year and prepares the 2026–27 budget. The district is projected to end 2025–26 with approximately $7.9 million following the transfer of $9 million from the Capital Projects Fund. Assuming no levy revenue and continuation of current reductions, including an additional 63 positions reduced for 2026–27, the district projects an ending fund balance of approximately $877,000. Without additional revenue or state support, the projected deficit for 2027–28 is approximately $9.5 million.

Superintendent Woods explained that if the November levy passes, the district would work with OSPI regarding its two-year financial outlook and could potentially exit binding conditions the following year. If the levy does not pass, OSPI would likely establish a financial oversight committee, with planning for additional reductions beginning as early as December and reductions developed for spring 2027. He noted that Yelm is currently the only district among those anticipated to begin the school year under binding conditions that does not have a local levy. The draft 2026–27 budget will be reviewed by the ESD and OSPI as part of the approval process.

Superintendent Woods also reported that he met with the Mayor and requested an opportunity to speak with the Yelm City Council regarding ways the City could support the district. He will notify Board members when an opportunity to address the Council is scheduled.

Community Comments
Comments were presented by Will Gunstrom, E. Wyatt Mendel and Jason Lane.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED
July 16, 2026 – Regular Business Meeting
August 3, 2026 – Regular Business Meeting
M/Denise Hendrickson; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Carrie Baldwin	Transportation Bus Driver	9/9/2026
Madissen Clement	YES, ESA School Counselor	9/9/2026
Miguel Gonzalez Oseguera	YHS Coach Assistant Girls Soccer	9/1/2026 Split Position
Sierra Guzman	SW OP II Attendance	9/9/2026
Carl Ludders	Transportation Bus Driver	9/9/2026
Kody Martinez	YHS Coach Assistant Football	9/1/2026
Dan Monta	LK Teacher SPED LRC	9/9/2026
Phil Perry	YHS coach Assistant Girls Soccer	9/1/2026 Split Position
Laura Pride	SW Teacher SPED CLC/SELF	9/9/2026
Ruben Reyes	Transportation Supervisor	8/3/2026
Shannon Strozyk	SW Interim Assistant Principal	8/3/2026 One Year Only
David Temple	YHS Coach Head Girls Soccer	9/1/2026
Alicia Weiser	YHS Teacher SPED CLC/SELF	9/9/2026 Resignation Revoked
Kylee White	Human Resources Coordinator	7/27/2026
Corey Whitfield	Transportation Bus Driver	9/9/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Braden Castleberry Taylor	YHS Coach Assistant Football	8/3/2026 Resignation
Kennedy Davis	YHS Coach Assistant Girls Soccer	7/15/2026 Resignation
Katie Del Toro	SW Teacher Kindergarten	8/31/2026 Resignation
Courtney Hickman	YHS Coach Assistant Football	8/4/2026 Resignation
Jessica Hicks	OSS LPN	7/8/2026 Resignation
Kevin Lefevre	Transportation Bus Driver	7/21/2026 Resignation
Daryn Walter	RMS Teacher ELA/AVID	8/31/2026 Resignation
REDUCTION IN FORCE/NON RENEWAL:		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Connie Hopkins	OSS ESA School Nurse	8/31/2026 Non-renewal
STAFFING CHANGES:		
Keith McLaren	YMS to YHS SPED LRC to SPED FLC	9/9/2026
REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR TEACHING OUT OF ENDORSEMENT		
Lester Colburn	YES, Math, ELA, Science, PE/Health & Visual Arts	9/9/2026 26-27 School Year

Robert Daubert	YES, Math Science, PE/Health & Visual Arts	9/9/2026 26-27 School Year
Gordon Kenny	YES, Math, Science, History, Social Studies, PE/Health & Visual Arts	9/9/2026 26-27 School Year
Sarah Mulkey	YES, Math, Science, History, Social Studies, PE/Health & Visual Arts	9/9/2026 26-27 School Year
Michael Munro	YES, Math Science, History, Social Studies, PE/Health & Visual Arts	9/9/2026 26-27 School Year

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

POLICY REVISION – APPROVED

5310 Compensation Schedule
M/Ryan Jewell; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISIONS – SECOND READING - APPROVED

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

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

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members congratulated Director of Human Resources DeeDee Buckingham on her recognition and thanked her for her work and contributions to the District. Members also expressed appreciation to the Gold Star mother in attendance and thanked community members who provided public comments.

Members acknowledged the concerns and emotions surrounding the District's financial challenges and emphasized the importance of listening to differing perspectives. They discussed challenges with Washington's school funding system, noting that the District must work within the current system while continuing to advocate at the state level for changes to education funding.
Members emphasized the importance of voter participation, transparency regarding District spending, and communicating the budget reductions that have occurred in recent years. They encouraged the community, employee groups, District staff, and other stakeholders to work together and remain focused on supporting Yelm students.

Members noted that school districts across the state are facing similar financial challenges and stressed the importance of collaboration, respectful communication, and collective advocacy. They also thanked those who attended and participated in the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Chris Woods thanked District Office staff for their hard work throughout the summer and expressed appreciation for the dedication and commitment of the district's leadership team.

Woods emphasized the importance of respectful dialogue, noting that disagreement is expected but should not prevent people from coming together to have productive conversations. He encouraged community members to engage directly with the district, participate in discussion opportunities, and share both positive and critical feedback.

Woods also provided an update regarding a District family that recently experienced the tragic loss of a parent. He shared that District staff had contacted the family to offer support and were developing a plan to ensure the students receive appropriate care, counseling, and assistance

when they return to school. He expressed appreciation for staff members supporting the family and acknowledged the community's efforts to assist them during this difficult time.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:53 p.m.

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