Yelm Community Schools, District No. 2

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MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, September 10, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hauss, Denise Hendrickson, Ryan Jewell, Frank King

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Rebecca Rankin, Cali Stein

CALLED TO ORDER

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

MILL POND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Principal Becki Fowler presented Mill Pond Elementary's 2026–27 School Improvement Plan, outlining the school's priorities in **Learning, Belonging, and Community**.

Fowler shared that Mill Pond's learning priorities include improving student attendance and strengthening Tier I instruction. Attendance efforts will focus on regular family communication, weekly review of attendance data, identifying patterns and solutions, and recognizing positive attendance. Tier I instructional efforts include using STAR data, MTSS supports, six-week intervention cycles, quarterly data meetings, weekly grade-level PLC reviews, and classroom walkthroughs to support strong instruction and provide staff feedback.

In the area of belonging, Fowler highlighted efforts to establish consistent behavior expectations and foster a Culture of Dignity through student leadership, restorative practices, positive referrals, and increased communication and partnership with families.

Community priorities center on strengthening two-way communication and family engagement. Mill Pond will continue to build partnerships with staff, families, the Booster Club, and community members through school events, parent nights, leadership opportunities, newsletters, surveys, and additional opportunities for parent feedback. Looking ahead, Fowler identified classroom walkthroughs, teacher feedback, attendance, student engagement and leadership, volunteer opportunities, community events, and ensuring parent voices and concerns are heard as key leadership priorities for the year.

AUDIENCE

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Woods thanked Mill Pond Principal Becky Fowler for her work and presentation during the busy start of the school year. He then provided updates on two current topics: the Yelm High School football investigation and public records requests.

Regarding the football investigation, Superintendent Woods shared the latest communication sent to football families. Clear Risk Solutions has completed on-site interviews and received written statements, videos, images, and other information related to the incident involving a student and football coach. The investigator is reviewing the information and preparing a written report, which is anticipated within two to three weeks. The District will review the findings and follow applicable policies and procedures before making any final determinations. Superintendent Woods

emphasized the importance of protecting student and staff confidentiality and making decisions based on the facts and the best interests of students, staff, and the community.

Superintendent Woods also discussed the increasing volume and complexity of public records requests, noting that the District received 113 requests during the previous school year. Due to the legal requirements associated with responding to these requests, the District now works with legal counsel to review each request and response to ensure compliance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures. He noted that this process requires significant staff time and legal expenses.

He reminded the Board that records created by public employees in the course of their work may be subject to public disclosure and that District staff conduct their work with that understanding. He also noted that school districts across the state are providing feedback regarding challenges associated with public records requests and that future legislative attention to the issue may occur. Superintendent Woods stated that he will continue to keep the Board informed regarding significant public records requests and developments related to the football investigation.

Community Comments
Comments were presented by E. Wyatt Mendel.

NEW BUSINESS
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Christopher Didway	YHS Coach Assistant Football	9/1/2026
Dakota Hill	YHS Coach Head Strength & Conditioning	9/1/2026
Chalynn Loya	Transportation Bus Driver	9/9/2026
Melody Meyer	Transportation Bus Driver	9/9/2026
Steve Shotwell	Transportation Bus Driver	9/9/2026
Debbie Wentworth	OSL Student Information Support Coordinator	9/3/2026
William Wiggins	YHS Coach Assistant Football	9/1/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Brian Brodzinski	MP Instructional Paraeducator	9/4/2026 Resignation
Stacey Keyes	MP Instructional Paraeducator	9/1/2026 Resignation
Kody Martinez	YHS Coach Assistant Football	8/21/2026 Resignation
Breanna McGalliard	Food Service Cafe Worker	9/2/2026 Resignation
Brandi Ruff	Transportation Bus Assistant	8/25/2026 Resignation
Ami Sumey	MP Teacher 3rd Grade	8/18/2026 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.

OUT OF DISTRICT TRAVEL – APPROVED

YHS Boys and Girls Cross Country to Portland, OR, September 25-26, to compete; 11 students and 2 chaperones.

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

CTE PROGRAM PLAN AND PERKINS GRANT – APPROVED

Director of Operations Teri Melone presented an update on the District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, highlighting opportunities available to students and the program's alignment with the District's strategic plan. The 2026–27 program includes 57 courses across multiple career areas, with opportunities for equivalency credit, industry certifications, and dual college credit. The program offers 49 industry certifications and 27 CTE dual-credit courses, providing students the opportunity to earn up to 165 college credits.

Melone reviewed CTE achievement and Perkins accountability data. CTE students demonstrated strong outcomes in several areas, including graduation, academic proficiency, industry credential attainment, college credit attainment, and work-based learning participation.

The presentation also outlined CTE priorities and planned activities for the 2026–27 school year, including advisory meetings, career exploration events, Discovery Days, mock interviews, the CTE Showcase, CTSO competitions, the Chamber Spring Expo, and Day of Champions.

Melone also highlighted Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) and the leadership, career development, and recognition opportunities they provide students, reinforcing the District's strategic goal of providing opportunities for leadership, creativity, and recognition across school life.

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

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members welcomed staff and students back and thanked Mill Pond Elementary for hosting. Members appreciated the presentations and highlighted student leadership, CTE, FFA, and career-readiness opportunities. They congratulated students on their accomplishments and wished them success in upcoming activities and competitions.

Members also commented on the start of the school year and noted traffic and parking concerns in the McKenna area, including impacts to neighboring businesses.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The student representatives thanked staff for the presentations and shared appreciation for the information provided. They highlighted the value of student leadership opportunities and CTE programs that provide students with pathways and experiences to help prepare them for careers and life after high school.

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 – 7:07 p.m.

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