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, September 24, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Rebecca Rankin, Cali Stein

CALLED TO ORDER

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Mark Bowden, DeeDee Buckingham, Kaiya Burgess, Lisa Cadero-Smith, Charles Cook, Kurt Fourre, Becky Fowler, Ali Jacobson, Jodi Jarmin, Teri Melone, Brandon Pontius, Shannon Powell, Traci Schultz, Felecia Stenbakken, Shannon Strozyk, Chris Woods

AUDIENCE

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Woods provided an update on the District's levy information and outreach efforts. He reported that six social media posts had been published, with the open letter to the community and Levy Listening Session posts each receiving more than 12,000 combined views. He highlighted a video featuring student board representatives discussing the impact of programs including dance, sports medicine, football, and ASB, which received more than 10,000 views. A second video featuring YHS Principal Curtis Claringa, teacher/coach Alex McIntyre, and paraeducator Annie Ford was also released, focusing on their roles and experiences working with students. Superintendent Woods reported nearly 700 visits to the levy webpage and noted that 13 of 30 planned levy presentations were complete. He stated that he would continue providing the Board with updates through his weekly calendar of events.

Community Comments

Will Gunstrom and Kiersten Slevin presented comments.

NEW BUSINESS

INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS – APPROVED

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Raiza Barreto	YMS Paraeducator SPED Program Student Specific	9/14/2026
Robert Crow	OSS Teacher Deaf and Hard of Hearing	9/30/2026
Jennifer Hoke	YHS Teacher SPED Case Manager	9/9/2026
Kevin Kriss	PR Paraeducator SPED Program Student Specific	9/9/2026
Jason Owen	MP Paraeducator SPED Program Student Specific	9/9/2026
Ximena Romero-Johnston	YHS Paraeducator SPED Program Student Specific	9/9/2026

Jorden Steele	YHS OSS Physical Therapist	9/25/2026
LEAVE OF ABSENCE		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
No Report		
RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS		
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**
Christina Cox	FS Paraeducator Instructional	9/9/2026 Resignation
Dakota Hill	YHS Coach Head Baseball	9/10/2026 Resignation
Shari Parsons	PR OP V	9/25/2026 Resignation
Emma Stepan	SW OP II	8/31/2026 Resignation
STAFFING CHANGES:		
Timothy Beaudin	Assistant Coach to Interim Head Coach	9/1/2026
Korine Bland	Paraeducator Instructional to SPED Student Specific	9/9/2026
Petra Carmin	Paraeducator SPED LRC	Location Change 9/9/2026
Brianna Cunningham	Paraeducator SPED Preschool to Paraeducator SPED Student Specific	9/9/2026
Nicole Evans	Paraeducator SPED Student Specific to BSA	9/9/2026
Corina McMichael	Instructional to Paraeducator Instructional ML	Position/Location Change 9/9/2026
AUTHORIZATION TO PAY STIPENDS/SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS		
$271,558.76		

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS – APPROVED

YHS Connects, YHS Band $8,837.67
Yelm Comm. Ed Foundation, YHS FFA $650.00
Team Shelby PNW, YHS FFA..... $1,000.00
M/Bill Hauss; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 01-26-27 - APPROVED

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

CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS – APPROVED

Fort Stevens Elementary
Prairie Elementary
M/Frank King; S/Ryan Jewell; Motion carried unanimously.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL

YHS FFA to Cispus Learning Center, October 2-3, 2026, to attend District Leadership Camp, 14 students and 3 chaperones.
M/Bill Hauss; S/Denise Hendrickson; Motion carried unanimously.

VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL - APPROVED

A. General Fund	# 70154649 – 70154737	$2,454,042.68
B. ASB Fund	# 70410159 - 70410162	$4,949.78
C. Capital Projects Fund	# 70501882 - 70501885	$494,023.28
D. ACH	#9000000259 – 9000000277	$42,652.37
E. Comp Tax	# 112300033 – 11230033	$2,656.47
F. August Payroll		$6,257,324.52

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Director of Operations Teri Melone provided updates on Food Service, Technology, and Transportation. She reported on the number of meal applications processed and noted that current meal benefits are extended through October 20. Schools must reach at least a 30% meal-application approval rate by October 31 to be eligible to offer free meals during the 2027–28 school year.

Melone shared that 5,099 parents/guardians will receive weekly summaries of student technology usage, with 731 signed up to manage student usage outside of school hours.

Transportation updates included driver training on October 1 and upcoming student safety drills. All bus riders will learn how to respond in an emergency, with state requirements calling for two physical drills annually and a mid-year verbal reminder. Melone also highlighted the Bus Ambassador Program, which gives students opportunities to support drivers and serve as leaders, and reported that Complete Hearing and Balance donated the first ambassador vests, with additional sponsors being sought.

PUBLIC WORKS: APPROVED

Project #	Amount	Vendor/Reason
87.25	$54,202.50	Olympic Roofing, LLC – 500 Gym Roof Repair YHS
89.25	$1,155.23	Food Service Equipment – Dishwasher Diagnostics & Repair – YMS
118.25	$34,798.00	Lake Tapps Construction Unlimited – P13/14 Demolition – YHS
147.25	$790.22	Hermanson Co LLP - Chiller Diagnostics - Compressor Alarm for Loss of Charge – YHS
148.25	$1,317.23	Hurley Engineering - Boiler Ignition Transformer Replacement – RMS
149.25	$2,515.32	Hermanson Co LLP – Annual Chiller Maintenance – YHS
150.25	$2,515.32	Hermanson Co LLP – Annual Chiller Maintenance – RMS
151.25	$4,356.60	Hermanson Co LLP - Refrigerant Leak Diagnostics and Repair – YHS

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

No additional report.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

Sept 2026	4995 HC	4885.24 FTE (13.24 > 4872.00)
June 2026	5242 HC	

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members thanked Director of Operations Teri Melone for the information presented and discussed the impact of rising energy, fuel, and operational costs on the District. They expressed appreciation for staff, families, community partners, and donors for their continued support of students and schools.

Members provided updates on binding conditions meetings and levy outreach, noting appreciation for community members who participate in conversations regardless of their viewpoints. They acknowledged the financial challenges facing Yelm and other school districts and the complexities and limitations of the state's education funding system. Members emphasized the importance of transparency, community education, and continued dialogue to help the public better understand school funding and the District's financial constraints.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student representatives reflected on the amount of information shared during the meeting and appreciated the opportunity for the community to learn more about district and school activities. One representative shared positive impressions from a recent Careers Education class tour of Southworth Elementary, highlighting the school's design and murals. Both representatives expressed enthusiasm for the Bus Ambassador Program and the leadership opportunities it provides students. They also expressed interest in the Play On Panel and its focus on health-related issues, noting the importance of providing students with opportunities to become involved in leadership.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Chris Woods thanked community members for participating in ongoing conversations and emphasized the District's commitment to listening, addressing difficult topics, and providing information through meetings and videos. He noted increased community engagement and shared that an updated binding conditions letter is expected and will be made available to the public.

Woods also discussed upcoming statewide legislative priorities, including special education funding, materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC's), and substitute costs. He reported that the District spent nearly $2 million on substitutes during the previous year and noted that substitute costs affect districts statewide and are not funded through a specific state allocation.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:	Approved by:
/S/Chris M. Woods	/S/Bill Hauss
Secretary to the Board	Board Vice President – Acting on Behalf of the Board President