

**Yuma Elementary School District Number One
Governing Board
Regular Meeting**

The Governing Board for Yuma Elementary School District Number One held a Regular Meeting on **January 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** in the District Administration Office, 450 West Sixth Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Members present: Mrs. Faith Klostreich, President; Mrs. Adele Hennig, Clerk; Mr. Keith Ware, Member; Mr. Anthony Gier, Member; Mrs. Theresa Fox, Member

Others present: Mr. James Sheldahl, Superintendent, and other Members of the Administrative Staff of Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Adoption of Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mrs. Theresa Fox and seconded by Mr. Keith Ware. There was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

In accordance with A.R.S. 15-321.B the Governing Board **must** elect a President. The Governing Board **may** elect a Clerk from its membership. A motion to nominate Mr. Keith Ware as president was made by Mr. Anthony Gier; Mr. Ware accepted the nomination. A second motion to nominate Mrs. Faith Klostreich as president was made by Mrs. Adele Hennig; Mrs. Klostreich accepted the nomination. Votes for Mr. Keith Ware being president were as followed: Keith Ware, aye; Anthony Gier, aye; Opposed, Faith Klostreich, naye; Theresa Fox, naye; Adele Hennig, naye; motion does not carry. Votes for Mrs. Faith Klostreich being president were as followed: Faith Klostreich, Aye; Adele Hennig, Aye, Theresa Fox, Aye; Mr. Ware and Mr. Gier did not vote; motion carries. There was no discussion.

A motion to nominate Adele Hennig for clerk was made by Mrs. Faith Klostreich; Mrs. Hennig accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Votes for Mrs. Adele Hennig being Clerk were as followed: Faith Klostreich, Aye; Theresa Fox, Aye; Adele Hennig, Aye; Mr. Ware and Mr. Gier did not vote; motion carries. There was no discussion.

Setting of Time and Place of Regular Meetings:

The Governing Board for Yuma School District No. One should establish the time and place of their regular meetings. Currently, the Board meets at 5:30 p.m., the second Tuesday of each month except for July at the District Administration Office. Mr. Ware proposed to change the meeting time to start at 6pm, Mr. Gier agreed; this allows the board members and community members to arrive on time and not feel rushed. There was discussion amongst the board members and all agreed to have the meetings start time be changed to 5:45 p.m., the 2nd Tuesday of each month except July in the District Office Boardroom, 450 W. 6th Place, Yuma, AZ.

Board Report:

Adele Hennig stated she attended the holiday concert at Ron Watson and it was very lovely. Due to some generous donations, Ron Watson now has an orchestra band. She really enjoyed it.

Superintendents' Reports:

Donation Recognition - Dr. Alka, Associate Superintendent, recognized and highlighted several donations for the month of December 2023 and thanked our Yuma Community as a whole for its generous support to District One. The total for the month was \$8,690.67 and year-to-date is \$122,122.55. Donations for the month are listed in the consent agenda item 5.6 for approval. No action was required for this item.

Art Recognition –

Dr. Alka presented the art recognition for the month of January. Mrs. Sink’s, Palmcroft Elementary Art students demonstrated their creativity by engaging in different projects for Winter; Kindergarten painted snowmen that sneezed, 1st graders drew snowmen looking at snowflakes, 2nd graders assembled melting snowmen, 3rd graders created mittens and 4th graders designed Winter hats. Each grade level had a unique and imaginative approach to celebrating the winter season through art.

In Ms. Christiansen’s O.C. Johnson and Price Elementary School classes; 4th and 5th graders explored color order by creating Sunset Silhouette Landscapes using handprints, drawing inspiration from Australian Aboriginal Art. Additionally, the students ventured into the intricate world of MC Escher-inspired Tessellation, showcasing their skills in geometry and design. They all did an amazing job!

Information Items

District Financial Trends – Mr. Ponder reported that we are in a strong financial position and the funding presented does not reflect the budget that was approved in December. He also wanted to highlight some projects that were completed over Winter break. New furniture was delivered to Pecan Grove, Gila Vista and Woodard Jr. High School; New Carpet installed at Carver School; Riot glass film installed at Sunrise, R. Watson, Dorothy Hall, Carver, FAJH, Desert Mesa, Otondo, Multi-Purpose Room, and Castle Dome; Cooling Towers at Castle Dome were cleaned and ready for the summer; Art counters installed at Desert Mesa. Mr. Ponder thanked Mr. Lagunas and his team for getting those projects completed during the break.

Overview of School Health Services Department –

Under the leadership of Director Wendy Chesney, the Yuma Elementary School District One Health Services Department has provided valuable support and high-quality health services throughout the District. Mrs. Cheney and her team provided a presentation on the scope, quality, and direction of the Health Services Department. Mr. Gier expressed gratitude towards the Health Department team for their efforts.

Calls to the Public (Public Comments) –

The Governing Board welcomes statements from residents and appreciates constructive suggestions and comments that help meet the educational needs of the District. The completed form should be submitted by 5:30 pm, the day of the meeting which is traditionally the second Tuesday of the Month. A motion to waive the 15 minutes per subject limit was made by Mr. Keith Ware and seconded by Mr. Anthony Gier. They stated it was important to hear what the public had to say. Hearing the recommendation, the motion carried 5-0 with votes as follows; Faith Klostreich, aye, Keith Ware, aye Anthony Gier, aye, Theresa Fox, aye, Adele Hennig, aye. There was no additional discussion.

There were twelve (12) forms submitted – Samantha Lecker, Gilbert Hernandez, Tamara Donohoe, Kyrie Parker, Jeff Stoner, Lynda Marika (chose not to speak), Lynne Pancrazi, Danny Bryant, Lauren Heitzman, Maren Green, David Ibarra, Frank Anderson; addressed Restroom Policy / Legislative Priorities.

Consent Agenda - *Approval of these items are of a routine nature and those that normally do not require deliberations on the part of the Governing Board. A board member may pull items, which will be discussed and voted on separately.*

A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Keith Ware, seconded by Faith Klostreich, there was no discussion or items needing more discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Consideration to approve the minutes for the Study Session that was held on December 9, 2023, Budget Revision Public Hearing and Regular Meeting held on December 12, 2023 for Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

Approval of Payroll Vouchers: Submitted for signatures are copies of six (6) Payroll Vouchers totaling \$6,530,513.95 from December 15, 2023 through December 29, 2023.

Approval of Expense Vouchers: Submitted for signature are four (4) Expense Vouchers totaling \$2,029,472.36 from December 7, 2023 through December 19, 2023.

Approval of Human Resource Items

Approval/Ratification of Salary Adjustments/Coaching Contracts

The following are requests for additional duties/working days to be approved by the Governing board.

INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS

Name	Position	Location	Rate	Fund	Dates	Additional Duties
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GROUP REQUESTS

CPR Training

Names of nurses, health assistants, and paraprofessionals that will be doing CPR training due to their card expiring through the 2022-2023 school year. Will be paid their regular hourly rate. Paid out of Medicaid Fund.

Additional Assignments

Please see attached staff list with additional duties.

Approval/Ratification of Hiring for Certified, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel: (3) Certified Staff, (12) Support Staff, (15) Transfers. Listing can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

Approval/Ratification of Resignations for Certified, Classified and Substitute Personnel: (0) Certified Staff, (7) Support Staff.

Approval/Ratification of Termination for Certified Staff, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel: Hernandez Morales, Omar, Paraprofessional at Ron Watson effective January 9, 2024.

Approval of Student Activities and Tax Credit: Student activity and tax credit statements were submitted for the month of December 2023.

Approval of Donations:

Alice Byrne Elementary School- Donation from PEO Chapter BI, in the form of supplies for classroom/ office supplies such as silverware, paper plates and kleenex to be used by students and office staff. Donation has a total value of \$80.00.

Alice Byrne Elementary School- Donation from Jill Estes, in the form of 12 hardcover books to be used in the school library. Donation has a total value of \$200.00.

Dorothy Hall Elementary School- Donation from Brewers Restaurant, in the form of Eight XL pizzas for Dorothy Halls student ambassadors. Donation has a total value of \$173.35.

G. W. Carver Elementary School- Donation from In-N-Out Burger, in the form of a gift certificate to be used for the Cobras Awards for the students. Donation has a total value of \$365.00.

Gila Vista Jr High School- Donation from Peter Marsh Foundation, in the form of a check in the amount of \$1,000.00. Donation to be used for Band instruments.

Mary A. Otondo Elementary School- Donation from Kona Ice, in the form of a check in the amount of \$425.00 to be used at the Principal’s discretion.

Mary A. Otondo Elementary School - Donation from Jacksons fry bread and Catering, in the form of cash in the amount of \$200.00 to be used at the Principal’s discretion.

Mary A. Otondo Elementary School - Donations from Jacksons fry bread and Catering, in the form of sensory toys, a rug, lights and donut seats to be used in Mes. Martin’s ESS classroom. Donation has a total value of \$129.00.

Mary A. Otondo Elementary School- Donation from Sara Gardener, in the form of a modular couch, party favors, disc chairs, etc. to be used in Mrs. Martin’s ESS classroom. Donation has a total value of \$841.47.

Palmcroft Elementary School- Donation from Donors Choose, in the form of a classroom calming kit, all about feelings magic board, see my feelings mirror, etc. Donation has a total value of \$450.24 and will be used in Mrs. Ferrell's ESS classroom.

Palmcroft Elementary School- Donation from The Rock Church - Yuma in the form of new clothes, games and toys during a shopping spree to Kohl's for 15 students. Donation has a total value of \$3,500.00.

Pecan Grove Elementary School- Donation from Donors Choose, in the form of feminine hygiene products, deodorant, wipes, combs, etc. Donation has a total value of 525.61 and will be used in the health office.

R. Pete Woodard Jr High School- Donation from AdoptAClassroom.org, in the form of Dungeons & Dragons educational materials to be used in Mr. Southworth's after school program. Donation has a total value of \$290.00.

Ron Watson Middle School- Donation from Megan Marchant, in the form of hardcover books to be used in the library. Donation has a total value of \$198.00.

Sunrise Elementary School- Donation from Kabat's Fortuna Ace Hardware in the form of tomato plants, mint plants and such to be used at the 4th grader's garden. Total value of donation at \$163.00.

Sunrise Elementary School- Donation from Baker Creek Seeds in the form of 30 packets of seeds to be used at the 4th grader's garden. Donation has a value of \$150.00.

THIS MONTH'S TOTAL = \$8,690.67 YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL = \$122,122.55

Approval of School Activity Calendars/Newsletters - School calendars and newsletters were submitted for the month of January 2024.

Memorandum of Understanding Between YRMC and Yuma Elementary School District #1 -

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is designed to formalize the relationship between Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC) and Yuma Elementary School District No. 1 (District). To promote the improvement of health of students, YRMC and the District-agree to support the provision of a venue for medical residents to experience community health in a school setting and in return to provide health and health career education to District students, families, and staff.

It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board authorize the Memorandum of Understanding Between Yuma Regional Medical Center and Yuma Elementary School District #1.

Consideration to Approve Out-of-State Travel -

Elizabeth Thrower, Child Nutrition Director; Clarice Stevens, Child Nutrition Supervisor; & Taylor Bingham, Child Nutrition Supervisor request approval to attend the School Nutrition Association Legislative Action Conference 2024 from March 3-5, 2024 in Washington, DC. Funding for the trip will be covered from the Child Nutrition Grant (510).

Monique Garcia, School Psychologist; Amy Thompson, School Psychologist; & Jimena Morales, School Psychologist request approval to attend the NASP Conference 2024 from February 13-18, 2024 in New Orleans, LA. Funding for the trip will be covered from the Exceptional Student Services Grant (222).

It is recommended that the Governing Board approve all travel listed above.

Action Items:

Consideration to Discuss and Determine to Take Action on Restroom Policy – J. Sheldahl

Mr. Sheldahl reported that District ONE administrative recommendation is to continue our historical practice of maintaining gender specific student restrooms and allowing our principals and other caring adults on campus to work with families to support children. Mr. Sheldahl also stated that he has provided extensive rationale for this recommendation in the weekly reports to the Board, which falls into three categories of:

1.) Need: This not a relevant issue in our district. We continue to follow our historical practice of gender specific student restrooms. Boy are not allowed to enter the girl's bathroom and vice versa. Any implication to the contrary is false.

2.) Existing Policy: District ONE has sufficient policy in place for our principals and school personnel to keep kids safe.

Enacting a new policy that changes nothing about our schools' practices achieves no real purpose.

3.) Legal Recommendation: The legal landscape around this topic is complex and unsettled. Until this issue is resolved from legal perspective, this wise approach is to continue our historical practice and allow our capable school personnel to work with parents to address any specific situation that may arise.

At approximately 6:32 PM, a motion to have District #1 come up with a written Bathroom Policy that requires students to use bathrooms within district facilities that is consistent with students' biological sex at birth and for the district to provide a reasonable accommodation for students that are uncomfortable that is consistent with biological sex at birth was made by Mr. Anthony Gier and seconded by Mr. Keith Ware. Discussion on this motion started at 6:33 PM; board members discussed and did not come to consensus on district policies. Mr. Ware and Mr. Gier both agreed that it is important to have a written Bathroom Policy in place to protect our students. Mrs. Klostreich, Mrs. Fox, and Mr. Hennig all agreed that the district should not pass a policy at this time until the district receives evidence or legislation guidance/courts rule on this topic and continue to use historical practice, which is to have boys use boy's restrooms and girls use girl's restrooms. If a student does not feel comfortable using such restrooms, special accommodations and a plan will be in place for that student. At approximately 6:43 PM, Mrs. Klostreich called the question and asked Mr. Gier to repeat his motion. The motion did not pass, 2-3. The roll call votes were as followed: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mrs. Adele Hennig, Naye, Mrs. Klostreich, Naye; Mrs. Theresa Fox, Naye, Mr. Anthony Gier, Aye.

A second motion to table this discussion until it is definitively settled by the courts and receive guidance on this matter was made by Mrs. Klostreich and seconded by Mrs. Fox. There was no discussion. Motion passed 3-2. The roll call votes were as followed: Mr. Keith Ware, Naye; Mrs. Adele Hennig, Aye, Mrs. Klostreich, Aye; Mrs. Theresa Fox, Aye, Mr. Anthony Gier, Naye.

Consideration to Approve the Legislative Priorities as Presented – J. Sheldahl

According to Board Policy BJ: School Board Legislative Program, "The Board authorizes the Superintendent to actively participate in the development of legislation that has a positive effect on educational programs of the District."

The Administration proposes the following priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session:

Legislative Priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session:

- Fully fund kindergarten students at 1.0 FTE in the base revenue formula;
- Dedicated State funding to expand opportunities for high quality early learning;
- Add inflation adjustment to District Additional Assistance (DAA) formula;
- Fund replacement of school buildings that are more than 50 years old and have outlived their economic/educational viability;
- Pass a permanent fix for the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL);
- Extend/expand Prop 123 with specific allocations for compensation and safety/security;
- Accountability and transparency for the Education Savings Accounts (ESA) program in the following areas:
 - Increase Student Safety by requiring educators at private schools that receive taxpayer dollars to pass a fingerprint background check;
 - Require private schools that receive taxpayer dollars to provide services and safeguards under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504;
 - Expand Auditor General Authority to monitor and report on how ESA money is spent by private schools;
 - Establish program transparency by requiring the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to disclose the parental and student rights that are relinquished when leaving the public school system for the ESA program;
 - Raise educational standards by requiring private schools receiving taxpayer dollars to have minimum education requirements for classroom educators providing instruction to ESA students.

It is recommended that the Governing Board approve the legislative priorities as presented by the Superintendent. After hearing the recommendation Mr. Ware moved to approve the Legislative Priorities, with the exception of "Accountability and transparency for Education Savings Accounts (ESA) program and discuss separately; it was seconded by Mrs. Hennig. Motion passed unanimously; votes were as followed: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mrs. Adele Hennig, Aye, Mrs. Faith Klostreich, Aye; Mrs. Theresa Fox, Aye, Mr. Anthony Gier, Aye.

Mr. Ware made an additional motion to not approve the ESA program as the Legislative Priorities for FY 2023-2024 and it was seconded by Mr. Gier. Mr. Ware expressed his opinion that the board should not oppose parents' choices regarding their children's education. He disagreed with discussing the ESA on a Governing Board platform. After discussion among the board members, Mr. Keith Ware called the question at 7:00 pm and repeated his motion, to not approve the ESA program as a Legislative Priority for FY 2023-2024. The motion passed 4-1. The votes were as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mrs. Adele Hennig, Aye, Mrs. Klostreich, Naye; Mrs. Theresa Fox, Aye, Mr. Anthony Gier, Aye.

Future Agenda Items: Mr. Keith Ware requested to propose an action item to have an outline of the agenda posted on the district website one week prior to the board meeting. This allows stakeholders, community members, or interested parties to have access to the upcoming meeting agenda in advance.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Navarro, Secretary to the Board

Faith Klostreich, President

Adele Hennig, Clerk

Theresa Fox, Member

Keith Ware, Member

Anthony Gier, Member