

**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 **August 13, 2025** at 5:45 p.m. in the District Administration Office, 450 West Sixth Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Members present: Mr. Keith Ware, President; Mr. David Ibarra, Clerk; Mrs. Cori Rico, Member; Mr. Jeff Stoner, Member; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, Member

Members Absent: None

Others present: Mr. Denis Ponder, 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 5:45 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Adoption of Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. David Ibarra, seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. There was no discussion, the motion carried with a vote of 5-0 with votes being as follows; Keith Ware, aye, David Ibarra, aye, Cori Rico, aye, Jeff Stoner, aye, and Lisa Anderson, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Report: Board Members Mr. Ibarra, Mr. Stoner, and Mrs. Rico shared that they attended school tours throughout the month. They described the tours as wonderful experiences and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage with principals and staff.

Superintendent's Report:

Celebration Update – Mr. Ponder announced that student recognitions will now be held twice a year, once each semester, in a special celebration event. These events will honor achievements like spelling bee championships, perfect AASA scores, science competition wins, and more. The first celebration is set for Thursday, August 21st at 6:00 PM in the Woodard Jr. High School Activity Room.

Donation Recognition – Mr. Ponder, Superintendent, recognized and highlighted several donations for the month of July 2025 and thanked our Yuma Community as a whole for its generous support to District One. The total for the month was \$5,705.39 and year-to-date is \$5,705.39. Donations for the month are listed in the consent agenda item 5.6 for approval. No action was required for this item.

Art Recognition – Mr. Ponder, Superintendent, recognized and highlighted the art work displayed this month. Students from Gila Vista Jr. High School learned about composition and arranging visual elements to create balance and visual harmony by researching album covers from the past. Then created their own album cover design as if it was released on a vinyl record today.

Information Items

District Financial Trends – Mrs. Jamie Walden reported that year-to-date expenses remain in good standing, with Maintenance & Operations (M&O) encumbrances, including salaries and benefits, fully accounted for. She expressed confidence that the district is positioned for a financially strong year, supported by prior strategic decisions. A budget revision is scheduled for December. Currently, \$2.6 million in M&O funds and \$1 million in capital have been reserved for any unforeseen expenses.

District Discipline Presentation – Mrs. Leeanne Lagunas delivered a comprehensive presentation on student discipline. She shared examples currently used in schools and reviewed violations and infractions, including how they align with Arizona law regarding age and grade-level considerations. She also addressed case-by-case scenarios involving repeated behaviors. In addition, Mrs. Lagunas highlighted the student handbook and explained where infraction information can be found. The presentation prompted questions and discussion from the Board, who requested further clarification on several points.

First Read of Policy Advisories 819-914 – The Governing Board of Yuma Elementary School District utilizes the services of the Arizona School Boards Association to maintain its Governing Policies and advise the District upon recommended changes. Policy Advisories are sent to member school districts and Governing Board members multiple times throughout the year, usually to respond to changes in the law.

This agenda item serves as a "first read" for the proposed policy changes. ASBA's Policy Advisories **819-862, 863-865, 866-875, 876-905, 906-908, & 909-914** are available on the District's website to facilitate community or employee input.

Though no action is required on this agenda item, the Superintendent is prepared to address questions, comments, or concerns from Governing Board members.

Following discussion, Mr. Keith Ware made a motion to table the agenda item until next month's board meeting to allow additional time for review of the new policy advisories. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Ibarra. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0 with votes being as follows; Keith Ware, aye, David Ibarra, aye, Cori Rico, aye Jeff Stoner, aye, and Lisa Anderson, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance and Facility Update – Mr. Acosta provided a presentation on recent updates within the District's Maintenance and Facilities Department. Under the leadership of Director David Tamayo, the department continues to deliver exceptional support and high-quality services across Yuma Elementary School District One. He highlighted several completed summer projects, noting updates at Woodard Jr. High School, Rolle, OCJ, McGraw, FAJH, Otondo, Ron Watson, Price, and Roosevelt.

Public Comment – *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 5:45 pm the day of the meeting which is traditionally the second Tuesday of the Month.* There were six (6) Call to the Public – Channing Jones, 3636 S. Sage Ave. Yuma, AZ (Special Education Placements); Ruben Hernandez, 206 S. Orange Ave. Yuma, AZ (Assistance for Autistic Children); Nicolette Dech, 1305 W. 17th Place, Yuma, AZ (ESS Support); Shawn Dech, 1305 W. 17th Place, Yuma, AZ (Special Needs Support); Muhammad & Mazhar Bajwa, 1973 W. 20th Lane, Yuma, AZ (Private Services in School); Sarah Chavez, 6545 E. 32nd Lane, Yuma, AZ (ESS Appreciation).

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 Mr. Jeff Stoner and seconded by Mrs. Cori Rico, there was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Consideration to approve the minutes for the Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting that was held on July 8, 2025 and the Study Session Meeting held on July 21, 2025 for Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

Approval of Payroll Vouchers: Submitted for signatures are copies of nineteen (19) Payroll Vouchers totaling \$5,082,250.09 from June 26, 2025 through July 28, 2025.

Approval of Expense Vouchers: Submitted for signature are four (4) 2024/2025 Expense Vouchers totaling \$1,536,120.55 from June 5, 2025 through June 27, 2025; five (5) 2024/2025 Encumbered Expense Vouchers (ENC) totaling \$5,601,530.18 from July 2, 2025 through July 31, 2025; and four (4) 2025/2026 Encumbered Expense Vouchers totaling \$5,071,149.29 from July 2, 2025 through July 31, 2025.

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
Gonzalez, Linda	Paraprofessional	Otondo	\$14.70	M&O	7/23/25	Front Office Support
Gonzalez, Susana	Home School Liaison	Alice Byrne	\$16.25	Site M&O	7/28/25 - 7/29/25	Front Office Support
Guyer, Kayla	Teacher	Castle Dome	\$30 Hourly	M&O	6/22/25 - 6/30/26	Algebra 2 Planning
Neblina, Arely	Home School Liaison	Sunrise	\$16.75 Hourly	Site M&O	7/21/25 - 7/22/25	Front Office Support
Orduno, Leticia	School Secretary	McGraw	\$18.00 Hourly	Site M&O	7/16/25 - 7/18/25	Additional time for student registration and new year preparation
Peraza, Delaila	ESS Teacher	Castle Dome	\$30 Hourly	Site M&O	7/23/25 - 7/24/25	ESS Training
Poole, Michelle	School Secretary	Otondo	\$17.75 Hourly	Site M&O	7/16/25 - 7/18/25	Additional time for student registration and new year preparation

Santana, Nicole	Counselor	Gila Vista	\$30 Hourly	Site M&O	8/04/25 - 8/15/25	Master extra hours scheduling
Vargas, Tristan	Counselor	Fourth Avenue	\$30 Hourly	M&O	7/29/25 - 8/01/25	Student schedule after hours
Vega, Yesenia	Office Technician	Otondo	\$16.50	Site M&O	7/26/25	6 additional hours for registration and enrollments

GROUP REQUESTS

CPR Training

Names of nurses, health assistants, and paraprofessionals who will be doing CPR training due to their cards expiring through the 2025-2026 school year. Will be paid their regular hourly rate and paid out of the Medicaid Fund.

Additional Assignments

Please see the attached staff list with additional duties.

- July 2025 Jump Start -Fall 2025-SP 2026 21ST CCLC: 21ST CCLC codes FAJH 342.100.1000.6130.121 & 342.100.2210.6130.121
- For the new SPED programs at Sunrise, Palmcroft, Caver, Otondo, Woodard, Fourth Avenue, and Dorothy Hall, the District will provide up to 4 additional paraprofessional hours. Code:290-100-2570-6190-xxx Rate: Current Hourly Rate
- Two classified staff members from each school will be paid for 8 hours on July 28, 2025, to sort iReady Materials. Code:570.100.2290.6190.500 Rate: Current Hourly Rate

Approval/Ratification of Hiring for Certified, Classified Personnel: (9) Certified Staff, (57) Support Staff, (19) Transfers. Listing can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

Approval/Ratification of Resignations for Certified, Classified and Substitute Personnel: (2) Certified Staff, (24) Support Staff. Listing can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

Approval/Ratification of Job Abandonment for Certified, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel:

Support Staff

Perez, Bryan, Paraprofessional, at Ron Watson Middle School, effective August 13, 2025.

Approval/Ratification of Release of Contract

It is the administration recommendation that the release of contract request be approved due to extenuating circumstances and not to collect liquidated damages.

Bobbio, Rocio, Fourth Grade Teacher at Dorothy Hall Elementary School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective July 22, 2025.

Burris, Sarah L., Data Interventions 6th Grade Teacher at Ron Watson Middle School, request for release of contract for 2025-2026 school year, effective July 16, 2025.

Gutierrez, Cinthia J., Special Education Comprehensive Support Teacher at Pecan Grove Elementary School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective July 22, 2025.

Approval/Ratification of Request to Retire

Support Staff

Romero, Vereniz, Migrant Recruiter at District Office, requests to retire effective December 19, 2025.

Carrasco, Fernando, Mechanic at Transportation, requests to retire effective January 6, 2026.

Approval of Student Activities and Tax Credit: Student activity and tax credit statements were submitted for the month of July 2025.

Approval of Donations:

G.W. Carver Elementary School - Donation from United Way of Yuma in the form of 12 boxes of classroom supplies that will be used in K-5 grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of 600.00.

G.W. Carver Elementary School - Donation from Chris and Alton Jones in the form of classroom supplies that will be used in the 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of 500.00.

G.W. Carver Elementary School - Donation from Soccer Club Organization in the form of classroom supplies that will be used in K-5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of 2,000.00.

G. W. Carver Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose in the form of 27 books to be used in Mrs. Blacks 1st grade classroom. Donation has a total value of 245.58.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose in the form of feminine products and under clothing that will be used by students. Donation has a total value of 1,184.81.

Dorothy Hall Elementary School – Donation from Alana Proctor in the form of 20 books that will be used by students in the library. Donation has a total value of 50.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Round Table Pizza in the form of gift cards that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 180.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Limitless Realty in the form of gift basket that will be used as a raffle prize for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 65.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Lakeshore in the form of assorted supply items that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 175.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Oliveda in the form of bottle of olive oil that will be used as a raffle prize for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donations have a total value of 35.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Dream Gift Shop in the form of gift certificate that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 25.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from El Charro in the form of a cooler and gift certificate that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 180.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Advocate Pest in the form of gift certificate for service and promotional items that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 95.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Karen Griffin in the form of gift cards that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 100.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Becky Kuechel in the form of gift cards that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 100.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Sonja Greiner in the form of Harkins Gift Bag that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 70.00.

Yuma School District One – Donation from Prison Hill Brewery in the form of gift cards that will be used as raffle prizes for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Donation has a total value of 100.00.

Monthly Donation Total = \$5,705.39 Year-to-Date Total = 5,705.39

School Activity Calendars

School Calendars and Newsletters from District One Schools for the Month of August 2025 are attached.

Approval/Ratification of Out-of-State Travel

Mr. Denis Ponder, Superintendent; Mr. Duane Sheppard, Assoc. Superintendent; Mrs. Leeanne Lagunas, Assoc. Superintendent; Mrs. Kathi Mata, Coordinator; Mrs. Jennifer Castillo, SEM; Mrs. Leticia Valencia, Principal at Gila Vista and Rebekka King, Teacher; Mrs. Desiree Cooksey request approval to attend the **Avid National Conference 2025** in San Diego, CA from December 11-13, 2025. Indirect Funds (570) will cover all costs for this conference.

Mrs. Audrey Corners, Principal at Ron Watson and Mrs. Jennifer Stanley, Assistant Principal at Ron Watson request approval to attend the **Ron Clark Academy Conference** in Atlanta, GA from September 15-16, 2025. M&O Funds (001) will cover all costs for this conference.

Mrs. Amanda Norton, requests approval to attend the **Board of Directors Meeting for STEMKAMP** in Edwardsville, IL from September 15-16, 2025. STEMKAMP is covering all travel expenses for this conference.

Mrs. Amanda Norton and Sandra Carbajal request approval to attend the **Installation and Innovation Conference** in Monterey, CA from October 27-29, 2025. Costs not covered by the conference committee will be covered by the 2021 DoDEA grant.

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

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE COOPERATIVE CONTRACT PURCHASES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 – D. ACOSTA

BACKGROUND: As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure efficient and cost-effective procurement, various district purchases for the 2025-2026 school year will be made through established purchasing cooperatives. These cooperatives provide access to competitively bid contracts, allowing us to maximize value and comply with procurement regulations.

The following cooperatives, which have already been approved, will be utilized:

Mohave Educational Services Cooperative, State of Arizona Contract, the Yuma Educational Purchasing Association “YEPA,” The Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures “SAVE,” 1GPA, TIPS-USA, Omnia Partners and AXIA Cooperative.

The purchases are outlined and detailed on the attachment titled “Procurement Authority for Cooperative Contracts.”

Additionally, we will include **Cooperative Educational Services (CES)** in the list of approved cooperatives for the 2025/2026 school year.

All vendors under District contracts have provided satisfactory service during the term of their contract. These procurement approvals are in the best interest of the District and will ensure compliance with the Arizona School District Procurement Rules.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Governing Board approve the cooperative contracted purchases through these Government Board approved purchasing consortiums.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF EXISTING DISTRICT PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS – D. ACOSTA

BACKGROUND:

The multi-year contracts shown below were awarded by the Governing Board under term contracts that expire this month. These contracts require approval by the Governing Board in order to be extended for an additional one-year period.

All vendors under District contracts have provided satisfactory service during the term of their contract. These Contract extensions and procurement approvals are in the best interest of the District and will ensure compliance with the Arizona School District Procurement Rules.

Bid Number	Vendor	Contract Year
RFP-1-24-1-5 Writing Process Professional Development	Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.	2

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Governing Board approve the renewal of the District procurement contracts listed in the background.

Consideration to approve annual listing of district qualified evaluators for the 25-26 school year.

Annually, the Governing Board has the opportunity to approve the listing of qualified evaluators for Yuma Elementary School District One. All qualified evaluators included in this listing have gone through training with both Human Resources and the Learning Services department and are equipped to evaluate employees within the district.

Qualified Evaluators

Suzzette Whelchel – Principal
Chris Franey – Teacher on Special Assignment
Kevin Gettings – Principal
Alexandria Johnson – Assistant Principal
Sara Gerber – Teacher on Special Assignment
Ashley Fox – Principal
Tiffany Wolter – Assistant Principal

Roberta Knueppel – Teacher on Special Assignment
Richard Gerber – Principal
Crystal Teem – Assistant Principal
Xochitl Andrade – Teacher on Special Assignment
Audrey Corners – Principal
Jennifer Stanley – Assistant Principal
Luz Rubio – Principal
Elizabeth Angulo – Principal
Leticia Valencia – Principal
Frank Nunez – Principal
Jazmine Campos – Assistant Principal
Jennette Arviso – Principal
Nicole Alonzo – Principal
Marissa Tew – Assistant Principal
Jacque Acedo – Principal
Angela Logan – Principal
Nicole Wilhelmy – Principal
Matthew Buckley – Principal
Ana Ortega – Principal
Jose Cazares – Principal
Connie Valencia – Assistant Principal
Lurinda Ward Young – Director
Rob Monson – Director
Erica Jimenez - Director
Matthew Kaste – Director
Leeanne Lagunas – Associate Superintendent
Duane Sheppard – Associate Superintendent

MOU For 25-26 with Regional Center for Border Health

Yuma School District One and the Regional Center for Border Health wish to continue for the 2025 - 2026 school year their partnership that authorizes the mobile health clinics at Gila Vista Junior High School and O. C. Johnson Elementary School. The partnership also includes placing medical assistants at the school sites to facilitate client scheduling, accessing insurance, and other related services. In addition, the Regional Center provides professional staff for other educational services as requested by the schools, such as presentations to parent groups and career awareness activities for students.

It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board authorize the Superintendent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Yuma School District One and the Regional Center for Border Health for the 2025-2026 school year.

Action Items:

Consideration to Change Board Clerk to Vice President – K. Ware

Consideration and discussion regarding the change of the Board Clerk position title to Vice President.

It is recommended the Governing Board approve and change of the Board Clerk position title to Vice President. Hearing the recommendation, it was moved by Mr. Keith Ware and seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. There was no discussion. The motion carried 5-0 with votes as follows; Mr. Keith Ware – aye, Mr. David Ibarra – aye, Mrs. Cori Rico – aye, Mr. Jeff Stoner – aye, and Mrs. Lisa Anderson – aye.

Discussion and Vote on Appointment of Vice President – K. Ware

Consideration and discussion regarding the appointment of the Vice President.

Mr. Ware opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Mr. Stoner nominated Mr. Ibarra, and Mr. Ibarra accepted the nomination by seconding the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote: Mr. Keith Ware – aye, Mr. David Ibarra – aye, Mrs. Cori Rico – aye, Mr. Jeff Stoner – aye, and Mrs. Lisa Anderson – aye.

Consideration and Possible Action to Appoint a Board Member to Represent Yuma Elementary School District Delegate to the Arizona School Boards Association Delegate Assembly on September 6, 2025 – D. Ponder

The Delegate Assembly determines the positions of the Arizona School Boards Association. The Delegate Assembly, which consists of representatives of school districts throughout Arizona, meets annually in conjunction with the ASBA Law Conference.

It is recommended the Governing Board approve the appointment of a Board Member to represent Yuma Elementary School District #1 at the Arizona School Boards Association Delegate Assembly on September 6, 2025. Hearing the recommendation, a motion to appoint Mr. Keith Ware as the official representative of Yuma Elementary School District #1 at the Arizona School Boards Association Delegate Assembly on September 6, 2025 was made by Mr. Jeff Stoner and seconded by Mr. David Ibarra. There was no discussion. The motion carried 5-0 with votes as follows; Mr. Keith Ware – aye, Mr. David Ibarra – aye, Mrs. Cori Rico – aye, Mr. Jeff Stoner – aye, and Mrs. Lisa Anderson – aye.

Consideration and Possible Action Item to Approve Board Goals for FY25-26 – K. Ware

On July 21, 2025, the Governing Board met to develop goals for Yuma Elementary School District #1 for the 2025 – 2026 school year. A draft of the goals is included in the Board materials. The Board may discuss and take action regarding the approval of the 2025 – 2026 District Goals.

- 1.) Build teacher capacity in instructional practices and skills to improve student achievement in the core academic areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.
- 2.) Complete a comprehensive evaluation of the infrastructure needs of each facility in Yuma District #1 and develop a prioritized, long-term plan to address identified needs, ensuring safe and functional learning environments.
- 3.) Build a strategic framework and long-term plan to proactively study and address demographic shifts and enrollment trends, ensuring data-informed decision-making that supports sustainable district growth and resource allocation.

It is recommended that the Governing Board approve the goals for the 2025 – 2026 school year as presented. Hearing the recommendation, a motion to approve the goals for FY25-26 was made by David Ibarra and seconded by Mrs. Cori Rico. There was no discussion. The motion carried 5-0 with votes as follows; Mr. Keith Ware – aye, Mr. David Ibarra – aye, Mrs. Cori Rico – aye, Mr. Jeff Stoner – aye, and Mrs. Lisa Anderson – aye.

Future Agenda Items: Mrs. Cori Rico requested an informational item on Open Meeting Law, specifically regarding what topics may be discussed during board meetings and what must be addressed through other channels. She suggested including a review of the rules, laws, and regulations, as well as sharing the process for responding to “Call to the Public” comments.

Mr. Stoner requested that the September agenda include a discussion on service providers entering campuses. He asked for more information on how the process could be expedited to ensure Special Needs students receive the support and services they need in a timely manner.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Navarro, Secretary to the Board

Keith Ware, President

David Ibarra, Vice President

Cori Rico, Member

Jeff Stoner, Member

Lisa Anderson, Member