

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

The Governing Board for Yuma Elementary School District Number One held a Regular Meeting **February, 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.** in the District Administration Office, 450 West Sixth Street, Yuma, Arizona.

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

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 5:30 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 Mr. David Ibarra and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Report:

Several Board members reported attending various school events, which they found to be very entertaining. They also participated in BOLTS Training and described the experience as highly informative and enjoyable.

Superintendents' Reports:

High Five Recognition Program – The High Five Program is our District's employee recognition program. Each month employees are able to nominate peers district-wide that exemplify the traits of a High Five employee. Each month five (5) stellar employees will be selected by the Celebrate and Honor committee based on the five (5) traits of a High Five employee. The five (5) traits are listed below. *Demonstrates Professionalism, Sees It, Owns It, Solves It, Does It, Displays a Positive Attitude, Demonstrates District Pride, Goes Above and Beyond.* For the month of January 2026, the District proudly recognizes the following individuals as the selected High Five 1) Andre Cabrales, *Teacher* – Fourth Ave Junior High, 2) Blanca Robles, *Custodian* – Gila Vista Junior High, 3) Nicole Griffin, *Home School Liaison* – Palmcroft Elementary, 4) Katie Strom, *Teacher*–Ron Watson Middle School, 5) Magdalena Lopez, *Paraprofessional* – Price Elementary. All employees were honored with a special recognition PowerPoint, and a \$25.00 gift card courtesy of Mr. G's/Chili Pepper Restaurant, T-shirt and pin.

Donation Recognition – Mr. Ponder recognized and highlighted several donations for the month of January 2026 and thanked our Yuma Community as a whole for its generous support to District One. The total for the month was \$2,631.88 and year-to-date is \$94,162.72. Donations for the month are listed in the consent agenda item 5.6 for approval. No action was required for this item.

Art Recognition – D. Ponder

This month's display features artwork created by students from multiple schools.

Alice Byrne and Roosevelt Elementary School

Inspired by Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*, students created winter wonderland collages that explore movement, color, and texture. Students learned how Van Gogh used expressive brushstrokes and bold, vibrant colors to bring energy to the night sky, then applied those ideas using swirling painted lines to show motion. To create contrast and depth, students used textured, green painted papers for the evergreen trees and layered white paper to represent snow. Careful shading was added to the snow to create shadows and a sense of light, resulting in dynamic winter landscapes that capture both the spirit of Van Gogh's style and each student's unique artistic voice.

McGraw Elementary School

CW McGraw art students developed a diverse range of skills through their artistic journey. Their current K–5 exhibit showcases a strong understanding of the elements and principles of art and introduces the watercolor resist method alongside mixed-media techniques. Drawing inspiration from Piet Mondrian’s bold geometry, Katsushika Hokusai’s flowing compositions, Joan Miró’s playful linework, and Claude Monet’s luminous color, students proudly display balanced perspective drawings and vibrant watercolor paintings. Selected pieces will also be showcased at the Children’s Festival of the Arts in April, providing a wonderful opportunity for the community to celebrate the creativity and talent of our young artists.

Otondo Elementary School

Mary A. Otondo 4th grade students created breathtaking winter landscape artworks using a variety of materials and techniques to bring their scenes to life. Inspired by the Frederic Edwin Church and the beauty of the aurora borealis, students used chalk pastels to achieve a soft, glowing effect in the night sky. They thoughtfully applied the elements and principles of art: color, space, texture, balance, proportion, and unity to create strong and cohesive compositions. Students also demonstrated their understanding of depth by varying the size and spacing of trees in relation to the horizon line, resulting in landscaping that feel immersive and visually engaging.

Information Items

Enrollment Report – Mrs. Jamie Walden, Director of Finance, stated that enrollment decreased by 1.25% on the 100th day, which is below the projected budgeted decrease of 1.5%.

District Financial Trends – Mrs. Jamie Walden, Director of Finance, reported that the district remains in strong financial condition. Additionally, this year’s budget is aligned with projected spending expectations, and the district continues to trend favorably.

Classroom Behavior Support Update – Associate Superintendent Leeanne Lagunas reported that specialists have completed their third week at their assigned sites. Established data points will be used to monitor progress and assess the program’s effectiveness.

First Reading of Policy Advisories 917-958, 959 & 960 – 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 **917-958, 959, & 960** 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.

ESS Proposed Structure Overview – Director of Exceptional Student Services, Erica Jimenez, presented an overview of the proposed ESS structure. Due to significant growth in the program since 2020, a revised staffing structure was introduced to better address the increasing needs of students and the department.

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 5:45 pm, the day of the meeting which is traditionally the second Tuesday of the Month.* **There were no public comments during Call to the Public.**

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, seconded by Mrs. Cori Rico. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Consideration to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting that was held on January 13, 2026 and the Special Meeting and Study Session that was held on January 29, 2026 for Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

Approval of Payroll Vouchers: Submitted for signatures are copies of three (3) Payroll Vouchers totaling \$9,879,074.56 from January 9, 2026 through February 6, 2026.

Approval of Expense Vouchers: Submitted for signature is three (3) Expense Voucher totaling \$34,153.51 from December 19, 2025 and fourteen (14) 2025/2026 Expense Vouchers totaling \$4,042,970.05 from January 8, 2026 through January 29, 2026.

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
Aguayo, Anthony	Paraprofessional	Carver	\$15.15 Hourly	21st Century	1/20/26 - 6/30/26	21st Century After-School Program
Bartlett, Shelley	Teacher	O.C. Johnson	\$500 Stipend	Gifts & Donations	10/01/25 - 1/31/26	University of Phoenix provided the stipend to pay for overseeing a student teacher
Garcia, Monika	School Secretary	Rolle	\$18.00 Hourly	Site M&O	1/23/26 - 1/30/26	Inventory and organize paperwork for registration
Garcia Hernandez, Odalys	Paraprofessional	Pecan Grove	\$16.00 Hourly	21st Century	1/17/26 - 6/30/26	21st Century After-School Program
Guerra, Lizbeth	Office Technician	Rolle	\$17.25 Hourly	Site M&O	1/23/26 - 1/30/26	Inventory and organize paperwork for registration
Hatcher, Amanda	Paraprofessional	Carver	\$16.75 Hourly	21st Century	1/20/26 - 6/30/26	21st Century After-School Program
Nunez Cota, Adriana	Paraprofessional	Carver	\$16.00 Hourly	21st Century	1/20/26 - 6/30/26	21st Century After-School Program
Romero Carranza, Nora	Paraprofessional	Carver	\$16.00 Hourly	21st Century	2/11/26 - 6/30/26	21st Century After-School Program
Santiago, Pedro	Teacher	Palmcroft	\$30.00 Hourly	21st Century	1/12/26 - 6/30/26	21st Century After-School Program
Wuertenburg, Kelsie	Teacher	Otondo	\$30.00 Hourly	Site M&O	9/15/26 - 6/30/26	Gifted Testing

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.

- Two (2) additional workdays for Para librarians from each site to support iPads and Chromebooks on May 28–29, 2026. Compensated at 6.5 hours per day at the regular hourly rate. Funded through M&O. Applies to those returning for 2026–27.

Approval/Ratification of Hiring for Certified, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel: (0) Certified Staff, (42) Support Staff, (12) Transfers.

Approval/Ratification of Resignations for Certified, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel: (9) Certified Staff, (29) Support Staff.

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

Pena, Abigail, Paraprofessional at Woodard Jr. High School, effective February 17, 2026.

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.*

Hunsinger, Terrell D. Jr., Math 7th Grade Teacher at Fourth Avenue Jr. High School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective January 12, 2026.

Marshello, Crystal M., Language Arts 7th Grade Teacher at Castle Dome Middle School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective January 12, 2026.

Renteria, Gloria G., Preschool Coordinator at the District Office, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective February 23, 2026.

Approval/Ratification of Request to Retire:
Certified Staff

Packard, Rae, Student Support Specialist at Alice Byrne Elementary School, requests to retire, effective May 27, 2026.

Vidal, Catalina, 5th Grade Teacher at the Pecan Grove Elementary School, requests to retire, effective May 27, 2026.

Wiley, Luz I., 5th Grade Teacher at the Palmcroft Elementary School, requests to retire, effective May 27, 2026.

Support Staff

Kreger, Loren, General Maintenance at the Child Nutrition Department, requests to retire, effective June 30, 2026.

Torres, Abelardo, Custodian at Carver Elementary School, requests to retire, effective June 30, 2026.

Job Updates:

Recommendation: New Position – Assistant Director of Exceptional Student Services

The district recommends the creation of two Assistant Director of Exceptional Student Services positions to support the increasing needs and continued growth of the Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Department. To fund this revised leadership structure, the district will not refill the vacant Director of Preschool position and will reallocate those funds to support this expanded ESS administrative model.

Position Summary:

The Assistant Directors will serve as system-level leaders, partnering with the ESS Director to provide shared leadership across instructional systems, service delivery, regulatory compliance, and alignment with the district's strategic vision. This structure will allow for clear division of responsibilities while ensuring cohesive oversight of programs and services.

Justification

As the ESS department continues to grow in enrollment, service complexity, and compliance demands, additional leadership capacity is necessary to ensure effective program oversight, strengthened compliance systems, enhanced communication with stakeholders, and high-quality support for students and families. A two-assistant director model will provide sustainable leadership support and ensure operational efficiency while maintaining strong alignment with district priorities.

Salary Placement:

Administrative Placement Schedule - Range I (\$83,000 starting salary)

Funding Source:

These positions will be funded through Maintenance and Operations district funds. The district will reallocate funds from the vacant Director of Preschool position to support this enhanced ESS leadership structure.

Attached: Job description for Board review.

Approval of Student Activities and Tax Credit: Student activity and tax credit statements were submitted for the month of January 2026.

Approval of Donations:

Alice Byrne Elementary School - Donation from Donors Choose- in the form of Classroom Project Supplies that will be used in Ms. Oro’s 1st Grade Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$241.42.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Classroom Supplies that will be used in Mrs. Sinks Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$190.16.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Classroom Supplies that will be used in Ms. Ferrell ESS Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$472.32.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Classroom Supplies that will be used in Mrs. Hartley’s 2nd Grade Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$173.95.

Roosevelt Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Art Supplies that will be used in Mrs. Tunstall’s 5th Grade Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$235.93.

Roosevelt Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of T-Shirts that will be used for Mrs. Tunstall’s Student Council Members. Donation has a total value of \$229.05.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of a Printer and Ink that will be used in Mrs. Soto’s 2nd Grade Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$326.71.

Roosevelt Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose- in the form of Harry Potter Paperback books Qty 21 that will be used in Ms. Tunstall’s 5th Grade Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$289.76.

Price Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Books that will be used in the school library for all students. Donation has a total value of \$15.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Anonymous Donor – in the form of 25 Books that will be used in the school library for all students. Donation has a total value of \$75.00.

Yuma School District One Middle Schools – Donation from Alexandria Companion Support – in the form of Swag Bags with pens that will be used as prizes for Middle School reading challenge. Donation has a total value of \$50.00.

Pecan Grove Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Playdoh Modeling Compound that will be used in Ms. Gomez Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$15.94.

Pecan Grove Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Thermal Laminating Sheets that will be used Ms. Viscarra Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$15.98.

Pecan Grove Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of Backpacks and Art Supplies that will be used in Ms. Quintero’s Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$300.66.

This month’s total= **\$2,631.88** Year-to-date total =**\$94,162.72**

Approval of School Activity Calendars/Newsletters - School calendars and newsletters were submitted for the month of February 2026.

Approval/Ratification of Student Field Trips

The following field trip request has been submitted.

Two (2) Teachers from **O.C. Johnson School**, are requesting Board approval for 50 students and 15 Chaperones to attend a San Diego Zoo in San Diego, CA March 20, 2026 and returning that same day at 8:30 PM. This field trip will be funded by **PTO**.

Three (3) Teachers from **Woodard Jr. High School**, are requesting Board approval for 27 students to attend Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, CA on May 15, 2026 and returning on May 16, 2026 at 12:30 AM. This field trip will be funded by **Student Activity Funds (850)**.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE SOUTHERN YUMA COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT– D. ACOSTA

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to allow appointment of an Athletic Director to the association council operating the interscholastic athletic program for Crane, Gadsden, Somerton, and YSD#1 School Districts.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Governing Board approve the SYCIA Intergovernmental Agreement.

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

BACKGROUND:

As part of 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 and approved vendor contracts. The use of cooperative contracts allows the District to access competitively bid pricing, maximize value, and maintain compliance with state 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, CES, AXIA Cooperative, Equalis.

In addition to cooperative purchasing, the District will continue with identified sole-source vendors and internal District contracts where applicable. All vendors under current District contracts have provided satisfactory performance during the term of their contracts.

The detailed list of sole source increases, cooperative contract increases, and internal contract renewals is provided in the attachment titled “**D1 Purchasing Contract Increases.**”

These procurement actions are in the best interest of the District and ensure continued compliance with Arizona School District Procurement Rules.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Governing Board recognize the attached list of vendors with the new spending limits.

Consideration to Approve Out-of-State Travel

Mr. Jesus Silva, Teacher; Mr. Luis Romero, Teacher; Mrs. Roxanne Ramos, Teacher, and Mrs. Sharron Heppel-Vasquez request approval to attend the **2026 Ron Clark Academy Conference** in Alanta, GA from March 11-13, 2026. Title I Grant (113) will cover all costs for this conference.

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

Action Items:

Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Bond – J. Walden

TO CONSIDER AND, IF DEEMED ADVISABLE, TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING

THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF REFUNDING BONDS OF THE DISTRICT AND ADOPTING CERTAIN POST-ISSUANCE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES AND ISSUANCE AND POST-ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES.

It is recommended that the Governing Board Approve and Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Scale of Funding Bonds of the District and Adopting Certain Post-issuance continuing Disclosure Procedures and Issuance and Post-issuance Tax Compliance Procedures.

Following the presentation by Mr. Bob Casillas from STIFEL, the Board engaged in an in-depth discussion regarding the bond refunding. Mr. Keith Ware moved to table the bond refunding until a later date in order to monitor interest rates and determine if more favorable conditions may arise in the near future. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. The motion carried with a 3–2 vote as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Naye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, Naye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

Second Reading of Formal Complaint Form – D. Ponder

The Governing Board will conduct a Second Reading of the Formal Complaint Form, and may engage in discussion and take possible action to approve the form.

It is recommended that the Governing Board Approve the Formal Complaint Form as presented. After the board’s discussion and hearing the recommendation Mr. Jeff Stoner moved to approve the Formal Complaint Form as presented and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Anderson. The motion carried with a 5–0 vote as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Aye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, Aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

Discussion and Possible Action to Consider Approval of District Exit Form – D. Ponder

The Governing Board will discuss and may take action to consider approval of District Exit Form.

It is recommended that the Governing Board Approve the District Exit Form as presented. Following the recommendation and discussion, Mr. David Ibarra moved to Approve the District Exit Form as presented, with slight corrections. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cori Rico. The motion carried with a 5–0 vote as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Aye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, Aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

Future Agenda Items: None at this time.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Navarro, Secretary to the Board

Keith Ware, President

David Ibarra, Vice President

Cori Rico, Member

Lisa Anderson, Member

Jeff Stoner, Member