

**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 13, 2026 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, 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 5:45 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

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 Vice President from among its members. A motion to nominate Mr. Keith Ware as President was made by Mr. David Ibarra. Mr. Ware accepted the nomination. The vote to elect Mr. Keith Ware as President was as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, aye; Mr. David Ibarra, aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, aye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, aye. The motion carried unanimously. There was no discussion.

A motion to nominate Mr. David Ibarra as Vice President was made by Mr. Jeff Stoner. Mr. David Ibarra accepted the nomination. The vote to elect Mr. David Ibarra as Vice President was as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, aye; Mr. David Ibarra, aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, aye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, aye. The motion carried unanimously. 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 5:45 p.m., the second Tuesday of each month except for July at the District Administration Office. A motion to keep the same time and date was made by Mrs. Cori Rico and seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. The votes were as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, aye; Mr. David Ibarra, aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, aye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, aye. The motion carried unanimously. There was no discussion. The meetings will be at the same time and date in the District Office Boardroom, 450 W. 6th Place, Yuma, AZ.

Adoption of Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. David Ibarra and seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. There was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Board Report:

Mr. Jeff Stoner reported that Woodard Junior High School hosted a dodgeball tournament on January 10th, raising \$16,500. The funds will support the school's band, dance program, and library. Students and staff had a great time participating in this successful and engaging event.

Superintendents' Reports:

Donation Recognition – Mr. Ponder, Superintendent, recognized and highlighted several donations for the month of December 2025 and thanked our Yuma Community as a whole for its generous support to District One. The total for the month was \$37,703.50 and year-to-date is \$91,530.84 Donations for the month are listed in the consent agenda item 5.6 for approval. No action was required for this item.

Art Recognition – Due to the shortened month of December and Winter Break, Mr. Ponder reported that there will be no Art Recognition display for January and Art display showcases will resume in February.

High Five Employee 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 December 2025, the District proudly recognizes the following individuals as the selected High Five Employees. 1) Sarah Bales, *Director* – Health Services, 2) Jessica Hubbard, *Counselor* – Castle Dome Middle School, 3) Maritza Rivera, *Paraprofessional* – Otondo Elementary, 4) Marisol Miranda, *Paraprofessional* – Pecan Grove Elementary, 5) Marco Reyes-Romero, *Para-Library* – Roosevelt 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.

Information Items

District Financial Trends – Mrs. Walden reported that the District is in a strong financial position. The M&O budget reflects the previous revision, and the District remains in good financial standing.

Classroom Behavior Support Update – L. Lagunas

Mrs. Lagunas provided an update on the status, progress, and implementation of the Classroom Behavior Support program. Behavior Specialists began work on Monday and are receiving full training each morning throughout the week. In the afternoons, they report to their assigned school sites. Beginning next week, they are scheduled to be on-site full time.

First Read of Formal Complaint Form – D. Ponder

The Board conducted a First Read of the Formal Complaint Form for review. There was discussion among Board members regarding the content of the form. Board members shared their thoughts and recommendations, noting that once the form reflects all items that satisfy the Board, Mr. Ponder will submit it to Legal for review. Board members will continue to review the document and provide additional notes as needed. Overall, positive feedback was provided to Administration regarding the general Complaint Form.

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 was (1) form submitted – Sarah Chavez, 6545 E. 32nd Lane, Yuma, AZ (Mental Health Awareness)

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 Mrs. Cori Rico, seconded by Mr. David Ibarra. 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 December 9, 2025 for Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

Approval of Payroll Vouchers: Submitted for signatures are copies of three (3) Payroll Vouchers totaling \$7,589,325.61 from December 12, 2025 through December 23, 2025.

Approval of Expense Vouchers: Submitted for signature are ten (10) Expense Voucher totaling \$3,205,007.46 from December 4, 2025 and through December 18, 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
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Cordoba, Lucia	Teacher	Gila Vista	\$30 Hourly	Title One	12/13/25	Saturday School
Coyne, Erin M.	Teacher	Gila Vista	\$30 Hourly	Title One	12/13/25	Saturday School
Heredia, Eryka	Office Technician	Gila Vista	\$18.53 Hourly	Site M&O	1/05/26 - 1/08/26	Extra time to complete clerical tasks before the second semester begins.
Jones, Audrey A.	Teacher	Rolle	\$30 Hourly	Site M&O	1/13/26	Additional practice for music performances
Mendoza, Ana	School Secretary	Gila Vista	\$19.06 Hourly	Site M&O	1/05/26 - 1/08/26	Extra time to complete clerical tasks before the second semester begins.
Valenzuela, Luis	Custodian	Otondo	\$14.70 Hourly	M&O	12/13/25	Extra time on Saturday to move furniture

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.

Approval/Ratification of Hiring for Certified, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel: (0) Certified Staff, (5) Support Staff, (9) Transfers. Listing can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

Approval/Ratification of Resignations for Certified, Classified and Substitute Personnel: (0) Certified Staff, (5) Support Staff.

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.

Cordero Torres, Rebecca, Language Arts 8th Grade Teacher at Castle Dome Middle School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective December 19, 2025.

Mata, Kathi S., Grant Writer at the District Office, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective January 9, 2026.

It is the administration's recommendation that the contract release request be approved due to extenuating circumstances and that liquidated damages be collected.

Franco Yescas, Fernanda G., School Nurse at Sunrise Elementary School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective December 19, 2025.

Approval/Ratification of Request to Retire

Certified Staff

Ortega, Roberto F., Language Arts 8th Grade Teacher at Gila Vista Jr. High School, requests to retire, effective May 27, 2026.

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

Approval of Donations –

Dorothy Hall Elementary School - Donation from Alana Protor- in the form of 20 books that will be used in the school library for student circulation. Donation has a total value of \$60.00.

Alice Byrne Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose in the form of classroom project supplies that will be used in Mrs. Martin’s 1st grade classroom. Donation has a total value of \$882.99.

Woodard Jr. High School – Donation from Carlson Glass Inc. – in the form of candy canes that will be used for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students for good grades and positive behavior. Donation has a total value of \$92.64.

Woodard Jr. High School – Donation from Sunstate Environmental Services – in the form of 14 boxes of candy canes that will be used for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students for good grades and positive behaviors. Donation has a total value of \$43.06.

Woodard Jr. High School – Donation from Tony and Christina Leeper – in the form of candy canes that will be used for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students for good grades and positive behavior. Donation has a total value of \$52.80.

Woodard Jr. High School – Donation from Sprouts in the Foothills – in the form of 6 boxes of organic candy canes that will be used for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students for good grades and positive behaviors. Donation has a total value of \$59.98.

Yuma School District One Preschool – Donation from School House Outfitters in the form of 35 bags of clothing that will be used in preschool classrooms in District One. Donation has a total value of \$7,000.00.

Roosevelt Elementary School – Donation from Sonia Ulloa - in the form of school uniform shirts that will be used for kindergarten – 5th grade students. Donation has a total value of \$240.00.

Alice Byrne Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of classroom project supplies that will be used in Mrs. Teller’s 5th grade classroom. Donation had a total value of \$340.84.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of school supplies that will be used in Mrs. Haile’s kindergarten class. Donation has a total value of \$166.47.

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

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of school supplies that will be used in Ms. Navarro’s music class. Donation has a total value of \$193.48.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Donors Choose – in the form of school supplies that will be used in Mrs. Sinks art class. Donation has a total value of \$279.41.

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.

Yuma School District One Schools – Donation from anonymous donor – in the form of 6 books that will be used in various libraries in the district. Donation has a total value of \$55.00.

O.C Johnson Elementary School – Donation from DD’s Discount Store – in the form of credit to buy books that will be used for all grade levels. Donation has a total value of \$7,440.56

Roosevelt Elementary School – Donation from Camarena Law – in the form of 5 bicycles that will be used for citizenship awards for kindergarten to 5th students. Donation has a total value of 650.00.

McGraw Elementary School – Donation from Vertical Church – in the form of 530 gift certificates that will be used for all students. Donation has a total value of 2,000.00.

McGraw Elementary School – Donation from Vertical Church – in the form of gift cards for snacks/food that will be used in teachers’ lounge. Donation has a total value of 1,000.00.

Woodard Jr. High School – Gateway (Heart Foundation) – in the form of cash donations that will be used for the school’s band, dance and library “glow up”. Donation has a total value of 16,500.00.

This month’s total= **\$37,703.50.** Year-to-date total =**\$91,530.84**

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

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 January 2026 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

Mrs. Amanda Norton, DoDEA Grant Coordinator and Jennifer Castillo request approval to attend the **DoDEA Regional Conference** in Wichita Falls, TX from February 17-20, 2026. The 2021 DoDEA Grant will cover all costs for this conference.

Mrs. Leticia Valencia, Principal; Desiree Cooney, Teacher; Rebekka King, Teacher; Claudia Alvarez, Teacher; Elizabeth Miranda, Teacher; Misty Grimaldo, Teacher; Yohaira Vargas, Teacher; Susan Hernandez, Teacher; Yoecelyn Walle, Teacher; Leticia Guerrero, Teacher; Valeria Andrade, Teacher; Xotchil Andrade, TOSA request approval to attend the **2026 GYTO Las Vegas Conference** in Las Vegas, NV from January 17-19, 2026. Result Based Funding (457) will cover all costs for this conference.

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

Future Agenda Items:

Mr. Keith Ware requested that the Bond Refinance item be added to a Special Meeting agenda to allow for discussion on how the bond refinance process works. Additionally, Mr. Jeff Stoner requested an overview of the district’s exit policy when parents withdraw students from the district and asked that a form be developed for discussion and possible action.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:15 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