

**Yuma Elementary School District No. One
Governing Board
Study Session**

The Governing Board for Yuma Elementary School District No. One held a Study Session July 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room, 450 West Sixth Street, Yuma, Arizona.

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

Others present: Mr. Denis Ponder, Superintendent; Mr. Duane Sheppard, Associate Superintendent; Mrs. Leeanne Lagunas, Associate Superintendent; Mr. Luciano Muñoz, Executive HR Director; Mr. Danny Acosta, COO; Mrs. Julie Bacon, ASBA Consultant; Monica Navarro, Board Secretary

Call to Order:

President Mr. Keith Ware called the Study Session to order at 2:02 PM. The purpose of the session was to establish the structure of Board operations, define communication protocols, and develop Board Goals for the FY 2025–2026 school year. The intent is to ensure the process remains transparent and accessible to the community.

Board Operations and Communication Protocols:

Julie Bacon of the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) facilitated a Board retreat and it was focused on communication protocols and the development of goals for the 2025–2026 school year. In attendance were all members of the Governing Board, the Superintendent, the Administrative Assistant to the Board and Superintendent, and members of the district's administrative team. Mrs. Bacon presented each topic in detail, and the Governing Board engaged in a discussion regarding individual and collective communication preferences.

The topics covered in discussion in communication protocols include:

- Board to Superintendent Communication
- Emergency Situations Communication
- Superintendent to Board Communication
- Board Agenda Agreements
- Board Member Meeting Preparation Agreements
- During the Meeting Agreements
- After the Meeting Agreements
- Site Visit Agreements
- Board-Community Communication

Review FY24-25 District Goals:

The Board reviewed the District Goals established for fiscal year 2024–2025, discussing both the strengths and areas for growth. Members reflected on the progress made toward each of the three goals and whether they had been fully achieved. The discussion also included strategies the district can implement to further support the successful attainment of these goals moving forward.

Goal 1:

Improve student achievement scores as measured by Galileo and/or AASA by increasing the number of students scoring proficient and reducing the number of students scoring minimally proficient on the exams. **Priority Focus Area: Math**

Key Performance Indicators:

- Provide professional development on math discourse in the 24-25 SY and develop teaching strategies for implementation in classrooms.
- Evaluate, research, examine, discuss and adopt a comprehensive math curriculum in SY 2024-2025.

Goal 2:

Provide a safe, modern learning environment that meets the needs of every student.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Seek revenue sources and develop plans to utilize those sources in SY 24-25.
- Evaluate the facility and educational needs of students in exceptional student services programs in SY 24-25.

Goal 3:

Increase parent and community engagement by 5% in SY 24-25 as measured by event attendance and community visibility.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Develop mechanisms to measure parent engagement including but not limited to surveys, registrations and web analytics.
- Create and implement a plan to increase Yuma One presence at community events.

Following a thorough and thoughtful discussion, the administrative team and board agreed to revise and carry forward both Goal 1 and Goal 2 into the upcoming school year. Goal 3 was successfully accomplished, and the board expressed appreciation for the work completed, noting that efforts related to this goal will continue moving forward.

School Year FY25-26 District Goals Draft:**Goal 1:**

Build teacher capacity in instructional practices and skills to improve student achievements in the core academic areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.

Goal 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.

Goal 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.

Adjournment:

The Study Session adjourned at 4:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Navarro, Secretary to the Board

Keith Ware, President

Lisa Anderson, Member

Cori Rico, Member

David Ibarra, Member

Jeff Stoner, Member