

**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 **March 10, 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; Mr. Jeff Stoner, Member

**Member Absent:** Mrs. Lisa Anderson

**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.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. David Ibarra seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. There was no discussion, the motion carried with a vote of 4-0 with votes being as follows; Mr. Keith Ware, aye, Mr. David Ibarra, aye, Mrs. Cori Rico, aye, Mr. Jeff Stoner, aye.

**Board Report:** Mr. Ibarra reported that he visited Castle Dome to observe the chillers and air conditioning units. He also expressed his appreciation for the Maintenance Department and commended them for their hard work.

**Superintendent's 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 February, the District proudly recognizes the following individuals as the selected High Five Employees. 1) Beth Arroyo, Coordinator – Human Resources, 2) Chris Clayton, Teacher – OC Johnson Elementary, 3) Jose Jaramillo, Paraprofessional – Otondo Elementary, 4) Brenda Duran, Manager – Technology, 5) Yvette Avila Guzman, Registered Nurse – Health Services. 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, Superintendent, recognized and highlighted several donations for the month of February 2026 and thanked our Yuma Community as a whole for its generous support to District One. The total for the month was \$1,997.68 and year-to-date is \$96,160.40. 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 presented this month's display, featuring artwork created by students from Woodard Jr. High School and Desert Mesa.

**Woodard Junior High School** students have been working very hard this year. The works of art on the accordion folded papers are called agamographs. Developed by artist Yacaav Agam, these pieces will actually change as you walk by them. They also designed identity grids that capture their personalities and favorite things as well as mandalas featuring radial symmetry. The colorful folk-art landscapes inspired by the art of Karla Gerard were a favorite this year. The students loved the simple shapes, wax-resist, and bright colors. Recently they have started studying color theory and used warm and cool color schemes to create abstract colored pencil designs.

**Desert Mesa Elementary School** students have been busy bobcats. Third Graders were inspired by Charley Harper and created bird collages using a variety of shapes. Fourth Graders learned how to draw 3D forms on a 2D surface. Then, they stacked them using their knowledge of depth and perspective. Fourth Graders were also inspired by the artist Andy Warhol. They designed their own soup can based on foods that they love. Check them

out! Would you eat their soups? Fifth Graders made Birch trees in the snow, using Emily Carr as inspiration. Way to go Bobcats!

**Information Items -**

**Enrollment Report** – Mrs. Jamie Walden, Director of Finance, reported that the 120th enrollment count is within the budgeted decrease of 1.5%.

**District Financial Trends** – Mrs. Jamie Walden, Director of Finance, reported that financial trends show that the district remains stable and in a strong financial position.

**Classroom Behavior Support Update** – Associate Superintendent Leeanne Lagunas provided an update on the Classroom Behavior Support program. This month’s update focused on elementary schools, with next month’s update to focus on middle schools. Data was presented and continues to be collected to identify strengths and areas of opportunity in supporting students.

**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 is 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. The motion carried with a 4-0 with votes being as follows; Mr. Keith Ware, aye; Mr. David Ibarra, aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, aye.

**Approval of Minutes:** Consideration to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting that was held on February 17, 2026; Study Session that was held on February 24, 2026 and Special Meeting that was held on February 25, 2026 for Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

**Approval of Payroll Vouchers:** Submitted for signatures is a copy of one (1) Payroll Voucher totaling \$3,229,003.33 from February 20, 2026.

**Approval of Expense Vouchers:** Submitted for signature are fourteen (14) Expense Voucher totaling \$3,480,497.36 from February 5, 2026 through February 27, 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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Additional Duties</b>
Boelts, John	Paraprofessional	Ron Watson	\$17 Hourly	21st Century	2/13/26 - 5/31/26	Before & After School 21st Century Program
Holguin, Hilda	School Secretary	Sunrise	\$18.75 Hourly	M&O	2/3/26	Extra hours for Kindergarten Registration Night
Nunez, Victor	Crossing Guard	Otondo	\$15.15 Hourly	M&O	2/20/26	1 additional hour for the after school dance.
Valenzuela, Luis	Custodian	Otondo	\$15.15 Hourly	M&O	2/20/26	1 additional hour for the after school dance.
Valenzuela, Luis	Custodian	Otondo	\$15.15 Hourly	M&O	2/22/26	2 extra hours to clear playground trash

**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.

- February 21, 2026 – Palmcroft teachers will analyze student data to plan targeted instruction for AASA preparation, funded through Title I at \$30 per hour.
- February 19 and March 12, 2026 – Kinder Launch at Palmcroft to support student registration. Funded through Title I. Certified staff paid \$30 per hour. Support staff paid their regular hourly rate.

Approval to offer employment to personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.  
Please see the attachments.

**Approval/Ratification of Hiring for Certified, Support Staff, and Substitute Personnel:** (0) Certified Staff, (17) Support Staff, (4) Transfers. All listings can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

**Approval/Ratification of Resignations for Certified, Support Staff, and Substitute Personnel:** (9) Certified Staff, (12) Support Staff.

### **Approval/Ratification of Request to Retire Certified Staff**

Lizarraga, Maria E., Psychologist Assistant at Exceptional Student Services, requests to retire, effective June 1, 2027.

### **Job Updates**

*Annual Approvals for Employee Contract Language and Working Appointment Issuance:*

### **Working Calendars**

Each year, the district develops working calendars that outline the official work schedule for all employee groups. These calendars are reviewed and prepared in alignment with contract terms and operational needs and are distributed alongside annual contracts and employment letters.

We respectfully recommend that the Governing Board approve the 2026–2027 working calendars as presented.

### **26-27 Working Appointment and Contract Language**

Each year, the district collaborates with legal counsel to review and update all contract and working appointment language. This process ensures alignment with current legislation and reflects any necessary revisions to maintain compliance and clarity.

We recommend that the Governing Board approve the updated contract and working appointment language as presented.

### **Job Description Revisions:**

#### **Learning Services**

The district has worked with the Director of Learning Services to revise the following job descriptions in order to ensure that the job description reflects the current tasks, responsibilities and skills needed. We are recommending this approval prior to posting any vacancies that may surface for the 26-27 School Year in order for the job posting to reflect an accurate overview of the responsibilities.

#### **School Effectiveness Mentor:**

This job description has been revised to reflect a change in the job title from School Effectiveness Mentor to Instructional Coach. In addition, we have worked to reorder the essential functions that better reflects the primary focus of the position. We have also removed some technical terms and program titles that are no longer relevant to our district or that position.

### **Coordinator – Instructional Programs**

This job description has been revised to reflect minor changes by removing program titles and examples of tasks that are no relevant to the position any longer.

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

#### **Approval of Donations:**

**C.W. McGraw Elementary School** - Donation from Donors Choose- in the form of Classroom Reading Supplies that will be used in Mrs. White's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom. Donation has a total value of \$517.08.

**G. W. Carver Elementary School** – Donation from Box Tops for Education – in the form of a check that will be distributed amongst all grade levels (Principal's Discretion). Donation has a total value of \$57.30.

**Ron Watson Middle School** – Donation from Force4Giving, Inc. – in the form of a check that will be used for Roxanne Ramos's Leadership Field Trip. Donation has a total of \$105.73.

**Otondo Elementary School** – Donation from Brown's New Credit Bureau, Inc. – in the form of a check that will be used for Special Olympics at Otondo. Donation has a total value of \$300.00.

**G.W. Carver Elementary School** – Donation from American Online Giving Foundation – in the form of a check that will be distributed amongst all grade levels (Principal's Discretion). Donation has a total value of 60.62.

**Palmcroft Elementary School** – Donation from Anonymous Donor – in the form of 1 book that will be placed in the school's library collection. Donation has a total value of \$20.00.

**Gila Vista Jr. High School** – Donation from Judith Echeverria – in the form of a gift card from Bubba's Restaurant that will be awarded to a Gila Vista Family. Donation has a total value of \$50.00.

**O.C. Johnson Elementary School** – Donation from Yuma Super Greens – in the form of Microgreens variety quantity of 50 to be distributed to students. Donation has a total value of \$200.00.

**Palmcroft Elementary School** – Donation from Anonymous Donor – in the form of 10 books that will be in the school's library collection. Donation has a total value of 62.00.

**Yuma School District One Middle Schools** – Donation from NAU Yuma Library in the form of reading challenge prizes (3 totes bags, cups, shirts and buttons that will be given at select Middle Schools. Donation has a total value of \$50.00.

**Yuma School District One Middle Schools** – Donation from Sunny's Book Truck – in the form of one gift card that will be used as a prize for Middle School reading challenge. Donation has a total value of 50.00.

**Gila Vista Jr. High School** – Donation from an Anonymous Donor – in the form of 5 books that will be placed in the school's library collection. Donation has a total value of \$25.00.

**Sunrise Elementary School** – Donation from DonorsChoose.org – in the form of pencil sharpeners that will be used in Mrs. Obregon's Kindergarten class. Donation has a total value of \$266.00.

**Sunrise Elementary School** – Donation from DonorsChoose.org – in the form of Inspirational Phonics that will be used in First Grade Classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$233.95.

**This month's total = \$1,997.68      Year-to-date total = \$96,160.40**

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

#### **Consideration to Approve Out-of-State Travel**

Mr. David Tamayo requests approval to attend the **2026 AASBO Spring Conference** in Laughlin, NV from March 31, 2026 – April 4, 2026. M&O Funds (001) will cover all costs for this conference.

Mrs. Amanda Norton requests approval to attend the **DODEA Region Lead Meeting** in St. Louis, MO from April 15-17, 2026. DoDEA 2021 Grant (322) will cover all costs for this conference.

**It is recommended that the Governing Board approve the travels listed above.**

### **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN YUMA SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE AND ARIZONA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING (OAH) – D. ACOSTA**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-766(F), the Yuma School District One (Yuma ESD), or public agency pool operating pursuant to A.R.S. § 11-952.01, shall contract with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to pay all cost incurred by the OAH for Hearings held under A.R.S § 15-766.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Governing Board approve the Contract between Yuma School District One and Arizona Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH).

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

**BACKGROUND:**

In order to meet operational needs for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the District is requesting approval of purchasing increases for various vendors. These increases reflect anticipated expenditures necessary to support District-wide operations, instructional programs, maintenance, transportation, technology, and student services.

The requested increases ensure continuity of services and allow departments to continue procuring goods and services within approved contract limits.

A consolidated list of the requested purchasing increases is provided below: District and will ensure compliance with the Arizona School District Procurement Rules.

<b>March 2026 Purchasing Contract Increases</b>					
<b>Internal Contract</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>contract</b>	<b>LY 24-25</b>	<b>FY 25-26</b>	<b>Asking for</b>
YEMMC	BROWN PART MASTER	IFB: 1-22-6-5	\$52,829.82	\$ 51,074.64	\$70,000.00
YEMMC	PRECISION ELECTRIC	70-23-3-5	\$98,539.03	\$ 35,140.63	\$100,000.00

**Fiscal Impact:**

The total requested increase amount is outlined in the attached summary. Funding sources may include Maintenance & Operations (M&O), Capital, Bond, Grants, Auxiliary, or other designated funds, as applicable.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Governing Board approve the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 purchasing increases as presented in the attached summary.

**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.

<b>Bid Number</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Contract Year</b>
RFP-1-24-2-5 Audit Services	Heinfeld, Meech & Co	2

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

## Approval of Competitive Grants

### Barbara Park Memorial Literacy Grants

We are proud to announce that through the dedicated efforts of our District Librarian, four of our schools have been selected as recipients of the **Barbara Park Memorial Literacy Grant** for the current cycle:

- **Castle Dome Middle School**
- **OC Johnson Elementary School**
- **Palmcroft Elementary School**
- **Sunrise Elementary School**

### Local Impact and Recognition

The **\$2,000 in total grant funding** secured for these four sites will be used to purchase new, high-quality literature to refresh our library collections. This achievement highlights our district's proactive approach to securing external resources and our ongoing commitment to improving literacy outcomes for all students.

**It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board accept the 2026 Barbara Park Memorial Literacy Grants totaling \$2,000 for Castle Dome Middle School, OC Johnson Elementary School, Palmcroft Elementary School, and Sunrise Elementary School.**

### Approval/Ratification of Student Field Trips

**Eight (8) Teachers from Desert Mesa School**, are requesting Board approval for **45 students** and **8 Chaperones** to attend a Wild Life World Zoo & Aquarium in Phoenix, AZ on June 10, 2026 and returning that same day at 7:30 PM. This field trip will be funded by **21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant (344)**.

**One (1) Teacher from Ron Watson Middle School**, is requesting Board approval for **28 students** and **8 Chaperones** to attend San Diego Zoo in San Diego, CA on May 22, 2026 and returning on that same day at 11:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **Student Activity Funds (850) and M&O Funds (001)**.

**Three (3) Teachers from McGraw School**, are requesting Board approval for **90 students** and **6 Chaperones** to attend Odysea Aquarium in Scottsdale, AZ on April 24, 2026 and returning that same day at 7:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **Student Activity Funds (850)**.

**Six (6) Teachers from Woodard Jr. High School**, are requesting Board approval for **45 students** and **6 Chaperones** to attend Sea Life Arizona in Tempe, AZ on June 19, 2026 and returning that same day at 7:30 PM. This field trip will be funded by **21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant (344)**.

**Five (5) Teachers from Dorothy Hall School**, are requesting Board approval for **12 students** and **9 Chaperones** to attend Odysea Aquarium in Phoenix, AZ on May 19, 2026 and returning that same day at 4:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **PTO Funds**.

**Three (3) Teachers from Dorothy Hall School**, are requesting Board approval for **98 students** and **20 Chaperones** to attend Legoland in Carlsbad, CA on May 22, 2026 and returning that same day at 9:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **PTO Funds**.

**Five (5) Teachers from Dorothy Hall School**, are requesting Board approval for **13 students** to attend Odysea Aquarium in Phoenix, AZ on May 19, 2026 and returning that same day at 4:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **PTO Funds**.

**Three (3) Teachers from Dorothy Hall School**, are requesting Board approval for **87 students** and **21 Chaperones** to attend San Diego Zoo in San Diego, CA on May 22, 2026 and returning that same day at 9:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **PTO Funds**.

**Two (2) Teachers from Dorothy Hall School**, are requesting Board approval for **28 students** and **11 Chaperones** to attend San Diego Zoo in San Diego, CA on May 19, 2026 and returning that same day at 9:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **Student Activity Funds (850)**.

**Six (6) Teachers from Dorothy Hall School**, are requesting Board approval for **66 students** and **20 Chaperones** to attend Sea World in San Diego, CA on May 20, 2026 and returning that same day at 9:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **PTO Funds**.

**Action Items:**

**Second Reading of Policy Advisories 917-958, 959, & 960 – D. Ponder**

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 "second 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.

*It is recommended the Governing Board approve the adoption of Policy Advisories 917-958, 959, & 960 for the proposed policy changes.* After hearing the recommendation, Mr. David Ibarra moved to approve the adoption of Policy Advisories 917-958, 959, & 960 for the proposed policy changes. Mr. Jeff Stoner seconded the motion, with votes recorded as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

**Employee Compensation Recommendation for School Year 2026-2027 – J. Walden/L. Munoz**

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Governing Board with the District's compensation recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year.

**It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board approve the compensation packet for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.** After hearing the recommendation, Mrs. Cori Rico moved to approve the compensation packet for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. Mr. David Ibarra seconded the motion, with votes recorded as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

**Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution and Membership Agreement Between Yuma Elementary School District and Valley Schools Workers Compensation Group - J. Walden**

During the Study Session on February 24, 2026, Mrs. Walden presented the estimated cost savings of \$200,000 annually by switching from The Alliance to the Yuma Valley Schools Workers Compensation Group.

This agreement would begin July 1, 2026. Currently, Yuma Elementary School District participates in a fully insured or a hybrid model for Workers Compensation insurance. This change would move Yuma Elementary School District into the self-funded workers compensation insurance environment with The Valley Schools Worker's Compensation Group. This will allow for more control of costs and better incentives that will result in greater savings. Mrs. Walden is prepared to address questions, comments, or concerns from Governing Board members.

**It is recommended that the Governing Board Approve a Membership Agreement and Adopt a Resolution to join Valley Schools Workers Compensation Group.** After hearing the recommendation, Mr. Jeff Stoner moved to approve a Membership Agreement and Adopt a Resolution to join Valley Schools Workers Compensation Group. Mrs. Cori Rico seconded the motion, with votes recorded as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

**Possible Action to Approve an Increase in the Adult Meal Prices – L. Thrower**

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Adult Meal Pricing Tool, Yuma Elementary School District is currently out of compliance with federal requirements for adult meal pricing for both breakfast and lunch.

The current price for an Adult Breakfast is \$2.50 and the price of an Adult Lunch is \$4.00. Federal and state guidelines require that adult meals be priced to fully cover the cost of the meal, including commodities, and that they not be subsidized by student payments, or by federal, or state funds. To ensure compliance with USDA

regulation an adjustment in price will bring the Yuma Elementary School District One into compliance with federal guidelines and ensure that adult meals are self-sustaining.

**It is recommended that the Governing Board approve an increase in the Adult Meal prices to \$3.00 for Breakfast and \$5.00 for Lunch.** Following the recommendation, Mr. Jeff Stoner moved to approve the increase in the Adult Meal prices to \$3.00 for Breakfast and \$5.00 for Lunch. Mrs. Cori Rico seconded the motion with votes recorded as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

### **Consideration to Open the Core English Language Arts Adoption Process – D. Sheppard**

Yuma Elementary District One is beginning the process of evaluating and selecting a new core English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for our K–8 schools. As a district, we remain committed to providing students with a comprehensive, research-based literacy education that equips them with the reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills necessary for future academic and career success. This work aligns with our ongoing commitment to ensuring strong Tier 1 instruction and equitable access to high-quality instructional materials for all students. The Open Meeting Law will apply, and all committee meetings will be publicly posted.

In identifying a program that aligns with our district vision and instructional priorities, the following key components will be emphasized:

1. **Foundational Reading Skills:** Programs should provide systematic and explicit instruction in the essential components of reading including: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Instruction should align with current literacy research and support the development of strong decoding and word recognition skills, particularly in the early grades.
2. **Knowledge Building Through Complex Text:** The curriculum should use rich, grade-level texts to help students build background knowledge across a variety of disciplines while strengthening reading comprehension. Programs should incorporate both literary and informational texts that support vertical alignment across the K–8 continuum.
3. **Writing Development:** Programs should include explicit and structured writing instruction that supports students in developing narrative, informational, and argumentative writing skills. Writing should be integrated with reading and content learning to reinforce literacy development.
4. **Academic Communication and Collaboration:** The curriculum must promote structured academic discourse that strengthens students' speaking, listening, and reasoning skills. Instruction should also support the development of academic vocabulary and collaborative learning through discussion and reflection.
5. **Differentiated Instruction:** Programs should effectively support the diverse needs of English Learners, Students with Disabilities, and Gifted students through targeted year over year instructional supports, scaffolds, and enrichment opportunities that promote access to grade-level learning.
6. **Assessment & Reporting:** Programs should include a comprehensive assessment system that provides formative, summative, and benchmark data. Reporting tools should provide educators with actionable information to guide instruction, monitor progress, and support intervention decisions.

Yuma Elementary District One serves a diverse student population, including:

- 19% English Learners
- 21% Students with Disabilities
- 76% qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch
- 78% Hispanic, 18% White

As an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) District, we emphasize instructional strategies that promote critical thinking, academic discourse, writing, inquiry, and collaboration. These strategies should be reflected in the instructional approaches of any proposed program. Additionally, the district seeks instructional resources that support literacy development across all grade levels and address gaps in reading proficiency while strengthening long-term comprehension and knowledge building.

**Phase I** will include screening interested publishers and narrowing the selection to approximately four programs that meet the district's initial criteria. A rubric will be used to evaluate each presentation. The review committee will be comprised of 5-20 teachers, 3-6 instructional coaches, coordinators (EL and or AVID), the Director of Learning Services, and at least one associate superintendent.

**Phase II** will involve a deeper evaluation and the selection of the curriculum to be recommended for adoption. Each school will have teacher representation, as well as representatives from administration, coordinators, coaches, district administration, and parents.

**Administrative Recommendation**

**It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board open the core English Language Arts adoption process.** Following the recommendation, Mrs. Cori Rico moved to approve that the Governing Board open the core English Language Arts adoption process. Mr. Jeff Stoner seconded the motion with votes recorded as follows: Mr. Keith Ware, Aye; Mr. David Ibarra, Aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, Aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, Aye.

**Future Agenda Items:** None at this time.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 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

