

**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 **November 18, 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, Vice President; Mrs. Cori Rico, Member; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, Member; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, 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 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

A motion to adopt the agenda was moved by Mr. David Ibarra and 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; Lisa Anderson, aye; and Jeff Stoner, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Report:** The Board members reported that they visited several schools last month. They shared their experiences and expressed how much they enjoyed the visits.

**Superintendent's Report:**

**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 October 2025, the District proudly recognizes the following individuals as the selected High Five Employees. 1) Sarah Connell, *Teacher* – Woodard Junior High School, 2) Kathryn Abitong, *Teacher* – Alice Byrne Elementary, 3) Floyd Moiser *HVAC Technician* – Maintenance Department, 4) Lucrecia Salcido, *Health Assistant* – Sunrise Elementary, 5) Valene Draper, *Paraprofessional* – Carver 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, Superintendent, recognized and highlighted several donations for the month of October 2025 and thanked our Yuma Community as a whole for its generous support to District One. The total for the month was \$5,383.86 and year-to-date is \$51,418.81. Donations for the month are listed in the consent agenda item 5.6 for approval. No action was required for this item.

**Art Recognition** - This month's display showcases artwork created by students at Palmcroft Elementary. Each month, students produce an art piece connected to the literature in their Benchmark Language Arts curriculum. This takes place across all grade levels kindergarten through fifth grade and is an important part of teaching the **WHOLE CHILD**. Integrating art with classroom learning reinforces grade-level standards throughout the day. Students retell the weekly story to the art teacher and then bring it to life through their artwork, helping solidify comprehension. It also provides an opportunity for students who may struggle with reading to shine and connect with the literature in a new, meaningful way.

This month, the featured artwork and Benchmark texts come from our 4th grade students:

- **Unit One focused on Government:** Students drew flags that show the illusion of movement or include U.S. symbols.
- **Unit Two focused on Fiction:** After reading an excerpt from *The Wizard of Oz*, students illustrated the Emerald City and explored the concept of perspective.
- **Unit Three focused on Poetry:** Students read nature-themed poems, including *Birches* by Robert Frost, and created birch tree artwork while studying light and shadow.

### **Employee Recognition – D. Ponder**

Yuma School District One recognized the heroic efforts of Ron Watson Middle School SRO Cassandra Reed, and Sunrise Elementary Health Aide, Lucrecia Salcido, for saving a man's life on October 9, 2025. These ladies responded swiftly and performed CPR. Thanks to their quick thinking and decisive actions, Officer Reed and Mrs. Salcido prevented a potentially tragic situation.

### **Recognition of Excellence in Financial Reporting – D. Ponder**

As the Board is aware, public-school districts are held to exceptionally high standards of accountability and transparency in their financial practices and reporting. Yuma Elementary School District #1 was awarded ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending 2024. This prestigious recognition, marks a significant accomplishment and underscores our ongoing commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting.

Director of Budget and Finance, Mrs. Jamie Walden was also recognized for her continued excellence in financial reporting.

### **Recognition of Excellence – A & B Schools – D. Ponder**

The Arizona State Board of Education released the 2024-25 A-F School Letter Grades for all public schools statewide. This report provides information about student achievement, student growth, and other key academic indicators.

We applaud the efforts our students, teachers, parents and school leaders to accelerate the learning of our students in District #1. Yuma School District One proudly recognizes the student growth and achievement reflected in the report. We congratulate the eight schools that have achieved an 'A' or 'B' letter grade for the 2024-25 school year:

**A:** James D. Price Elementary School

**B:** C.W. McGraw Elementary School, Palmcroft Elementary School, Pecan Grove Elementary School, James B. Rolle Elementary School, Dorothy Hall Elementary School, Desert Mesa Elementary School, & Woodard Jr. High School.

### **Information Items**

**Enrollment Reports** – Mrs. Walden reported that the 40th-day enrollment numbers are slightly lower than last year; however, the current standing is better than originally anticipated.

**District Financial Trends** – Mrs. Walden reported that the district's ending balances remain in a healthy position. She noted that the team will continue to closely monitor and evaluate financial trends, and she added that a revised budget will be presented in December.

### **Classroom Behavior Support Update – D. Acosta**

Mr. Acosta provided an update on the Classroom Behavior Support program and shared information on the current status and progress of its implementation.

### **YSD#1 Complaint Forms Overview – D. Ponder**

Mr. Ponder presented an overview of the YSD#1 Complaint Forms and demonstrated where they can be found on the District website for easy parent access. The goal is to ensure that all complaint forms are accessible and presented in a user-friendly format online. Board members also discussed suggestions to help parents and community members more easily navigate and locate these forms.

**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 two Call to the Public forms submitted. Rosario Corona Zepeda, (Policies); Irma Felix, (Accountability)*

**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 or items needing more discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Consideration to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting that was held on October 14, 2025 for Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

**Approval of Payroll Vouchers:** Submitted for signatures are copies of five (5) Payroll Vouchers totaling \$7,554,242.84 from October 17, 2025 through October 31, 2025.

**Approval of Expense Vouchers:** Submitted for signature are sixteen (16) 2025/2026 Expense Vouchers totaling \$2,919,093.74 from October 2, 2025 through October 30, 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
Anthony, Darnell	Teacher	Dorothy Hall	\$30 Hourly		9/01/25 - 6/30/26	New case manager for an additional classroom
Gonzalez, Linda	Paraprofessional	Otonto	\$14.70 Hourly	Site M&O	11/03/25	Front office coverage
Norton, Douglas	Teacher	Ron Watson	\$30 Hourly	21st Century	11/08/25 - 6/30/26	Coach Odyssey of the Mind

**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.

- Crossing Guard – Chemical use and handling training on November 24–25, paid at the current hourly rate, funded through M&O.

**Approval/Ratification of Hiring for Certified, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel** – (2) Certified Staff, (44) Support Staff, (22) Transfers. Listing can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

**Approval/Ratification of Resignations for Certified, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel** - (22) Support Staff.

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

**Support Staff**

Caudillo, Christian E., Bus Driver, at Transportation, effective November 18, 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.*

May, McKenzie, Special Education Teacher at Dorothy Hall Elementary School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective October 30, 2025.

**Approval/Ratification of Request to Retire**

**Support Staff**

Krall, Max A., Bus Driver at Transportation, requests to retire, effective November 18, 2025.

Romero, Vereniz, Migrant Recruiter at Federal Programs, requests to retire, effective January 5, 2026.

**Approval/Ratification of Termination for Certified Staff, Support Staff and Substitute Personnel –**

Camarillo, Alejandro, Groundskeeper at Maintenance, effective November 18, 2025.

Quintero Salgado, Sonia, Paraprofessional at Carver Elementary School, effective November 18, 2025.

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

**Approval of Donations – D. Acosta**

**Roosevelt Elementary School** - Donation from Blue Tech Plumbing – Adrian Galvez in the form of two boxes of 42 bags of chips, one bag of chocolate candies that will be used for Student Council Fall Festival. Donation has a total value of \$65.00.

**Roosevelt Elementary School** – Donation from Donor Choose in the form of 30 books (The Witches) that will be used for classroom projects. Donation has a total value of \$302.58.

**Sunrise Elementary School** – Donation from Sunshine Moon Project in the form of four packs of water bottles that will be distributed between the Nurses office and Mrs. Montoya SPED classroom. Donation has a total value of \$18.50.

**Sunrise Elementary School** – Donation from anonymous donor in the form of three books to be used by students in the library. Donation has a total value of \$15.00.

**Yuma School District One** – Donation from Igneous Rocks Custom, LLC in the form of a check that will be used by District Office Wellness Committee for various district activities. Donation has a total value of \$500.00.

**Alice Byrne Elementary School** – Donation from Donors Choose in the form of classroom project to be used by Mrs. Teeter's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Donation has a total value of \$197.96.

**Alice Byrne Elementary School** – Donation from Donors Choose in the form of classroom project to be used in Mrs. Teeter's 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Donation has a total of \$426.13.

**Yuma School District One** – Donation from Monica Scudder in the form of a check to be used by District Office Wellness Committee for various district activities. Donation has a total value of \$100.00.

**Yuma School District One** – Donation from Jamie Walden in the form of a check to be used by District Office Wellness Committee for various district activities. Donation has a total value of \$100.00.

**Yuma School District One** – Donation from Arizona Furnishings in the form of a check to be used by District Office Wellness Committee for various activities. Donation has a total value of \$250.00.

**Yuma School District One** – Donation from Capital Finance in the form of a check to be used by District Office Wellness Committee for various activities. Donation has a total value of \$500.00.

**G.W. Carver Elementary School** – Donation from NAACP #106 in the form of a check and materials to be used K-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Donation has a total value of \$575.96.

**Sunrise Elementary School** – Donation from Mooo's Creamery in the form of a gift card to be used for Mrs. Bowker's spelling bee winner. Donation has a total value of \$20.00.

**Sunrise Elementary School** – Donation from Donors Choose in the form of classroom project to be used in Mrs. Myers music classroom. Donation has a total value of \$696.73.

**Roosevelt Elementary School** – Donation from Amber Rider in the form of one case of water, three bags of candy, two – twelve packs of sodas and party favors to be used for the Fall Festival. Donation has a total value of \$85.00.

**Sunrise Elementary School** – Donation from Jeff Brown in form of stuffed animals, backpacks and pencil sharpeners to be used in all classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$400.00.

**Dorothy Hall Elementary School** – Donation from Alana Procter in the form of twenty-two books that will be used by students in the library. Donation has a total value of \$70.00.

**Palmcroft Elementary School** – Donation from Palmcroft PTO in the form of eighty-nine books that will be used in the school library. Donation has a total value of \$1,011.00.

**Otonto Elementary School** – Donation from anonymous donor in the form of books to be used by students in the library. Donation has a total value of 50.00.

This month's total= \$5,383.86      Year-to-date total = \$51,418.81

**Approval of School Activity Calendars/Newsletters** - School calendars and newsletters were submitted for the month of November 2025.

**Approval of Competitive Grants**

**Yuma Education Foundation Grant for Gila Vista Junior High School**

Through the efforts of Jonathann Bailey, Gila Vista Junior High School has been awarded a \$981.63 grant from the Yuma Education Foundation to purchase lightweight materials such as tissue paper, adhesives, heat sources (safely contained), thermometers, and safety equipment. These materials will be used in a STEM project, where students will design, build, and launch small-scale hot air balloons to explore the principles of heat transfer, buoyancy, and energy transformation.

**It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board accept the grant of \$981.63 for Gila Vista Junior High School to purchase materials to be used in their STEM project.**

**Go AG! Grant for Palmcroft Elementary School Garden**

Through the efforts of Andrea Sinks, Palmcroft Elementary School has been awarded a \$1500 grant from the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association. This grant will purchase gardening supplies, fertilizers, and cooking materials to enable K-5 students, particularly those in Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and special education, to grow plants, conduct science experiments, learn healthy cooking skills, and utilize a sensory garden.

**It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board accept the grant of \$1500 for Palmcroft Elementary School to purchase materials for their school gardens.**

**Arizona Science Center Field Trip Grant for C.W. McGraw Elementary School**

Through the efforts of Nancygisell Hernandez, C.W. McGraw Elementary School has been awarded a \$1000 grant for a field trip to the Arizona Science Center. The Forces of Nature exhibit will serve as a hands-on classroom extension where students will collect quantitative and qualitative data to observe natural processes and test their ideas about Earth systems.

**It is the administrative recommendation that the Governing Board accept the grant of \$1000 for C.W. McGraw Elementary School for the field trip to the Arizona Science Center.**

**Approval/Ratification of Student Field Trips**

Three (3) Teachers from **McGraw Elementary School**, are requesting Board approval for 85 students, and 17 chaperones to attend the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix, AZ on December 5, 2025 and returning on the same day at 5:00 PM. This field trip will be funded by **Arizona Science Center Field Trip Grant**.

**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 November 2025 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 WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD: RFQ-01-26-01-5 – Construction Manager at Risk for Price Elementary School – D. ACOSTA**

**BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to award RFQ-01-26-01-5, Construction Manager at Risk for Price Elementary School for the 2025–2026 school year, to the firm deemed most advantageous to the District. An evaluation committee reviewed, evaluated, and scored all responses based on the criteria established in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Three hundred five (305) prospective vendors were sent the solicitation. Of these, thirty-five (35) vendors downloaded the RFP, thirteen (13) submitted a *No Bid*, and four (4) vendors submitted a response. All four (4) responding vendors were determined to be both responsive and responsible.

The vendors that submitted responses are as follows:

Core Construction	Loven/Merrill
<b>Pilkington Construction Co.</b>	Yuma Valley Construction

The intent of this Request for Proposals was to solicit qualified vendors to provide Construction Services: General/New/Remodel for Yuma Elementary School District No. 1. Based on the evaluation committee's scores, **Pilkington Construction Co.** received the highest overall score.

**WRITTEN DETERMINATION:** The following written determination is required:

Pursuant to School District Procurement Rule R7-2-1093, the following written determination is required prior to awarding a multi-term contract:

1. The estimated requirements for the duration of the contract are reasonable and continuing. Construction services (General/New/Remodel) will be required on a continual basis; therefore, it is reasonable to include the option for four (4) annual renewals.
2. The use of a multi-term contract is in the District's best interest as it encourages effective competition and promotes economies of scale. A multi-term contract allows for continuity of services and supports competitive pricing across multiple years.
3. If funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to continue performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be canceled. The contractor may be reimbursed only for reasonable, nonrecurring costs that were incurred but not amortized in the contract price, or costs that are otherwise non-recoverable. Cancellation costs may be paid from any appropriations available for that purpose.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Governing Board award RFQ-01-26-01-5 to **Pilkington Construction Co.** for Construction Manager at Risk services for Price Elementary School.

**Action Items:**

**Consideration to Approve Director of Exceptional Student Services – D. Ponder**

The process for the selection of the Director of Exceptional Student Services started with an announcement that the district was seeking an outstanding leader for the vacant position.

First the applicants had to complete the following items:

- Submit an electronic application
- Submit a cover letter
- Submit a resume

Top applicants were asked to participate in the interview process. Phase One of the interview process included the applicants giving a 30-minute presentation to different groups. The groups included staff from Exceptional Student Services, in addition to leaders from across our district. Phase two of the process included the final interview committee asking a set of formal questions and reviewing a writing prompt. The final interview committee included the following individuals:

Heather Smith – Speech Language Pathologist  
 Berenice Jimenez – ESS Teacher  
 Gillian Eberhart – ESS Coordinator  
 Jamie Walden – Director of Finance  
 Amy Thompson – School Psychologist  
 Nicole Wilhelmy – Elementary Principal  
 Jose Cazares – Middle School Principal  
 Ashley Fox – Elementary Principal  
 Daniel Acosta – Chief Operations Officer  
 Luciano Munoz – Executive Director of Human Resources  
 Leeann Lagunas – Associate Superintendent

Duane Sheppard – Associate Superintendent  
Denis Ponder – Superintendent

After careful deliberation and a thorough discussion of each candidate's qualifications and fit for the position, the interview committee is pleased to recommend Erica Jimenez. Ms. Jimenez currently serves as the Director of Preschool and brings 25 years of dedicated service to education. She has done a remarkable job transforming our preschool department into a highly effective and highly rated program. She has a strong vision to rebuild and enhance the ESS department.

**Therefore, it is the Administrative recommendation that Erica Jimenez be approved by the Governing Board as Director of Exceptional Student Services effective the 25-26 school year. Hearing the recommendation, a motion to approve Erica Jimenez as Director of Exceptional Student Services effective the 25-26 school year was made by Mrs. Cori Rico and seconded by Mr. David Ibarra.** The motion passed unanimously, carried 5-0 with votes as follows; Mr. Keith Ware, aye; Mr. David Ibarra, aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, aye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, aye.

#### **School Council and School Based Management – D. Ponder**

Pursuant to ARS 15-351 D, the governing board shall determine the initial number of school council members. The minimum number for the council is 5, with one representative from each of the following categories:

- Parent/Guardian of pupils enrolled in the school
- Teachers
- Noncertified Employees
- Community Members
- Pupils, if the school is a high school (N/A)
- The principal of the school

Policy CFD states that the purpose of the school council is to provide input for the creation of curricular and instructional strategies/designs that meet the unique learning needs of the students served at each school. This shared decision making SHALL NOT supersede Board/Superintendent decision-making responsibilities unless waived by the board.

**Hearing the presentation, a motion to approve School Council and School Based Management was made by Mr. David Ibarra and seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. There was discussion on compensation for these School Council Members. The motion passed unanimously, carried 5-0 with votes 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:** Action items on complaint forms.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Monica Navarro, Secretary to the Board

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Keith Ware, President

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David Ibarra, Vice President

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Cori Rico, Member

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Lisa Anderson, Member

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Jeff Stoner, Member