

**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 **September 9, 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 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Adoption of Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Mr. David Ibarra, seconded by Mr. Jeff Stoner. There was no discussion, the motion carried with a vote of 5-0 with votes being as follows; Mr. Keith Ware, aye; Mr. David Ibarra, aye; Mrs. Cori Rico, aye; Mrs. Lisa Anderson, aye; and Mr. Jeff Stoner, aye.

Board Report: Board members reported attending the ASBA Law Conference, noting it was highly informative. They also shared that they participated in school visits and truly enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the schools.

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 August, the District proudly recognizes the following individuals as the selected High Five Employees. 1) Yoecelyn Walle, *Teacher* – McGraw Elementary, 2) Princess Marquez, *Lead Health Assistant* – Health Services, 3) Hannah Martinez, *Teacher* – Palmcroft Elementary, 4) David Hernandez, *Paraprofessional* – Desert Mesa Elementary, 5) Antonio Espinoza Medina, *Technician* – Technology Department

Donation Recognition - Mr. Ponder, Superintendent, recognized and highlighted several donations for the month of August 2025 and thanked our Yuma Community as a whole for its generous support to District One. The total for the month was \$25,671.00 and year-to-date is \$31,376.39. Donations for the month are listed in the consent agenda item 5.6 for approval. No action was required for this item.

Art Recognition- The art work displayed this month are from Mrs. Guiden's Visual Arts 7th / 8th Graders at Castle Dome Middle School. The primary objective of an "I Am" Poem Art Project is to foster self-reflection, identity exploration, and personal expression through a combination of writing and visual art. It serves as a creative outlet for students and participants to understand themselves, articulate their unique qualities and experiences, and connect with others.

The project blends poetry with visual art, offering a unique way to play with language, imagery, rhythm, and color to create a piece that reflects the individual's voice and personality.

Information Items

Enrollment Reports – Mrs. Jamie Walden presented the updated 20th-day enrollment report. The data reflects a slight decrease compared to last year's 20th-day report. Moving forward, enrollment will continue to be tracked every 20th day to provide a clearer picture and support financial planning for the year.

District Financial Trends – Mrs. Walden presented a year-to-date report on the district's M&O Budget. There have been minimal changes compared to the previous month. Some encumbrances remain pending and are intended to address any unforeseen challenges that may arise. The budget will continue to be closely monitored.

First Reading of Policy Advisories 819-862, 863-865, 866-875, 876-905, 906-908, & 909-914 – 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 "first read" for the proposed policy changes. ASBA's Policy Advisories **819-862, 863-865, 866-875, 876-905, 906-908, & 909-914** 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.

Insurance Trust Update – Mrs. Walden presented an overview of the Employee Benefit Trust’s year-to-date performance, supported by materials provided by Capital Financial. She shared detailed insights into self-funding results, including renewals, monthly costs, and a five-year claims history by plan year. In addition, she reviewed claims by diagnosis, prescription rebates, and employee education opportunities. Mrs. Walden also outlined the proposed 2025–2026 monthly rates for employees and spouses. Board members requested a breakdown of the highest claims from the 2024–2025 plan year, specifically identifying the areas with the most significant increases compared to the previous year. There was no further discussion.

Public Comment – 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 5:45pm the day of the meeting which is traditionally the second Tuesday of the Month. 1.) *Mrs. Rosario Corona Zepeda, 11318 E. 24th Place, Yuma, AZ – Lack of Accountability at the ESS Dept.*

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.* Mr. Ware asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was moved by Mr. Jeff Stoner and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Anderson. 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 August 13, 2025 for Yuma Elementary School District Number One.

Approval of Payroll Vouchers: Submitted for signatures are copies of seven (7) Payroll Vouchers totaling \$10,384,821.53 from August 8, 2025 through September 5, 2025.

Approval of Expense Vouchers: Submitted for signature are five (5) 2024 / 2025 Expense Vouchers totaling \$469,732.40 from August 7, 2025 through August 29, 2025; thirteen (13) 2025 / 2026 Encumbered Expense Vouchers totaling \$3,095,343.43 from August 7, 2025 through August 29, 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
Estrada, Aide	Teacher	Roosevelt	\$30 Hourly	21st Century	8/01/25 - 6/30/26	21st Century Before & After School Program
Garica, Loana	Office Technician	Fourth Avenue	\$17.00 Hourly	Indirect Cost	8/02/25	Four (4) hours to assist with sports physicals
Guzman, Maria Del Cielo	Paraprofessional	Pecan Grove	\$16.00 Hourly	21st Century	8/01/25 - 6/30/26	21st Century Before & After School Program
Rodriguez, Gabriela	Teacher	Otondo	\$30 Hourly	21st Century	8/01/25 - 6/30/26	21st Century Before & After School Program
Padilla, Jeri	Teacher	Gila Vista	\$30 Hourly	21st Century	8/01/25 - 6/30/26	21st Century Before & After School Program
Marron, Frances	School Secretary	Ron Watson	\$18.80 Hourly	21st Century	8/01/25 - 6/30/26	21st Century Before & After School Program
Randolph, Megan	SEM	Learning Services	\$3,000 Stipend	Indirect Cost	8/01/25 - 6/30/26	Provided Summer 2025 SEI Course Training
Carey, Sarah	Teacher	Fourth Avenue	\$1,000 Stipend	DODEA Grant	8/04/25 - 06/30/25	Create a Science Lab Safety Manual
Bailey, Jonathan	Teacher	Gila Vista	\$1,000 Stipend	DODEA Grant	8/04/25 - 06/30/25	Create a Science Lab Safety Manual

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.

- Each middle school will assign two coaches (TBD) each season: one for 6th-grade girls' sports and one for 6th-grade boys' sports. Coaches will be paid \$500 per sport per season. Fund: Title IV.
- For the 2025-2026 (TBD), Teachers who provide services to homebound students will be paid for four (4) hours of instruction and two (2) hours of planning each week. Fund: District M&O

Approval/Ratification of Hiring for Certified, Classified and Substitute Personnel: (2) Certified Staff, (18) Support Staff, (21) Transfers. Listing can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

Approval/Ratification of Resignations for Certified, Classified and Substitute Personnel: (1) Certified Staff, (12) Support Staff. Listing can be viewed in the Human Resource Department.

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.

Mendez Rodriguez, Gema, Special Education Autism Teacher at Dorothy Hall Elementary School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective September 19, 2025.

Thomas, Elizabeth, Kindergarten Teacher at Sunrise Elementary School, request for release of contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective September 26, 2025.

Approval/Ratification of Request to Retire

Certified Staff

Bergman, Linda, first grade teacher at James B. Rolle, 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 August 2025.

Approval of Donations:

Ron Watson Middle School - Donation from Jeff Stoner Board Member in the form of RC Car Event Tent that will be used in RC Car Class. Donation has a total value of \$1,123.46.

G.W. Carver Elementary School – Donation from Anonymous in the form of 59 books that will be used in K-5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$10.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of Journals, school supplies that will be used in Ms. Ramirez classroom. Donation has a total value of \$191.29.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of supplies for classroom project to be used in Mrs. Myers classroom. Donation has a total value of \$722.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of supplies for choir project to be used in Mrs. Myers classroom. Donation has a total value of \$724.00.

Roosevelt Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of classroom supplies to be used in Mrs. Tunstall's 5th grade classroom. Donation has a total value of \$232.91.

James D. Rolle Elementary School – Donation from United States Army Child and Youth Services in the form of 54 sets of headphones to be used in classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$540.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of Art Supplies to be used in Ms. Ramirez classroom. Donation has a total value of \$795.84.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of Pencils and Whiteboards to be used in Ms. Beltran's 5th grade classroom. Donation has a total value of \$261.00.

G. W. Carver Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of music materials to be used in A. Sampson classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$727.02.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Trinity Methodist Church in the form of school supplies to be used in K- 5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$452.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of Physical Education Equipment to be used in Mrs. DeLaCruz's classroom. Donation has a total value of \$885.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Community Christian Church in the form of school supplies to be used in K- 5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$300.00.

Price Elementary School – Donation from Lisa Thompson in the form of books to be used in all grades. Donation has a total value of \$40.00.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from donorschoose.org in the form of school supplies to be used in Mrs. Hartley's 2nd grade classroom. Donation has a total value of \$168.01.

Palmcroft Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of art supplies to be used in Ms. Ferrell's classroom. Donation has a total value of \$165.45.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of classroom essentials to be used in Mrs. Quintana's Reading Intervention Class. Donation has a total value of 13.58.

Dorothy Hall Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of project supplies to be used in 1st grade classroom. Donation has a total value of \$527.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from United Way of Yuma County in the form of school supply boxes to be used in all grades. Donation has a total value of \$1250.00.

Sunrise Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of Music room supplies to be used in Mrs. Myers Music classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$1219.00.

Alice Byrne Elementary School – Donation from Terracina Apartments in the form of 3 classroom supply boxes to be used in classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$96.00.

Alice Byrne Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of digital camera to be used in Mrs. Teeter's 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$222.99.

Alice Byrne Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of project supplies to be used in Mrs. Teeter's 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$217.45.

Alice Byrne Elementary School – Donation from Donorschoose.org in the form of project supplies to be used in Mrs. Teeter's 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Donation has a total value of \$246.00.

Exceptional Student Services – Donation from Bowling Fundraiser to be used district wide for Special Education. Donation has a total value of \$14,541.00.

THIS MONTH'S TOTAL = \$25,671.00 YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL = \$31,376.39

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

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.

Bid Number	Vendor	Contract Year
IFB-1-21-1-5 Vehicle, Bus, and Equipment repairs & related supplies & labor.	Chassis Dynamics, Off Road Buggy Supply, RWC, Transmissions Plus.	5

RECOMMENDATION:

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

AGREEMENT BETWEEN YUMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PLAN – D. ACOSTA

We will pilot the Continuing Education Plan at Rolle Elementary School during the 2025-2026 school year. This program is designed to help children of active military members from pre-K through 5th grade as they transition to new schools.

The program's author, Stephanie Rundle, will work with one teacher from each grade level (pre-K through 5th) to complete a skills checklist for their military-connected students. This checklist is a tool to help these students transition to a new school more easily when their families move.

The program is dedicated to enhancing the academic skills of *military-connected students from prekindergarten through 5th grade*. We understand the unique challenges they face, and our program is designed to provide tailored support to ensure their success.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE COOPERATIVE CONTRACT PURCHASES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 – D. Acosta

BACKGROUND:

As part of our 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. These cooperatives provide access to competitively bid contracts, allowing us to maximize value and comply with 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 and AXIA Cooperative.

The purchases are outlined and detailed on the attachment titled “Procurement Authority 25/26.”

All vendors under District contracts have provided satisfactory service during the term of their contract. These procurement approvals are in the best interest of the District and will ensure compliance with the Arizona School District Procurement Rules.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Governing Board approve the cooperative contracted purchases through these Government Board approved purchasing consortiums.

Consideration to Approve Out-of-State Travel

Mrs. Maria Gaona, Migrant Coordinator; Madai Arellano, and TBD request approval to attend the **2025 AMET State Conference** in Baytown, TX from November 17-20, 2025. Migrant Funds (122) will cover all costs for this conference.

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

Action Items:

Consideration to Approve Hearing Officers – L. Lagunas

This agenda item is requesting the approval of Neil Johnson as the District's discipline hearing officer for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Neil Johnson has served in this capacity since 2018. We believe that he will demonstrate support for District policy and exhibit professionalism throughout every disciplinary proceeding.

It is therefore recommended that the Governing Board approve Mr. Neil Johnson as District Hearing Officer for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Cori Rico moved to approve Mr. Neil Johnson as District Hearing Officers for the 2025-2026 school year and it was seconded by Mr. David Ibarra. The motion passed unanimously, carried 5-0 with votes as follows; Keith Ware, aye; David Ibarra, aye; Cori Rico, aye; Lisa Anderson, aye; and Jeff Stoner, aye.

Future Agenda Items: Follow up on disciplinary information.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:26 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