YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

June 17, 2025 – 6:00 PM
In-person and online via Google Meet
(in camera 6:00 - 7:00 PM)

Trustees Present:	Allan Shortt, Barbara Bell, David Wasylciw, Jason Snaggs (online), Michelle Peters, Terry Brookes and Tina Drew
Trustee regrets:	none
Administration Present:	Shirley Zouboules, Lisa Vass, Landon Kowalzik, Graham Arts, Jordan Martin and Pat Thagard
Regrets:	Annie Lagomasino
Guests:	Jodi Lee-Lewis (joined online at 7:11 PM)
Meeting Chairperson:	David Wasylciw
Meeting Minutes by:	Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

   The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM. Five (5) Trustees were present at the start of the meeting.
   Quorum was met. (Two trustees joined the meeting later, as indicated in the minutes.)

Motion #: 01/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move to in camera.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

Motion #: 02/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move out of in camera at 6:12 PM when Trustee Brookes joined the meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt Seconded by: Trustee Drew **Carried**

Motion #: 03/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move back to in camera at 6:12 PM.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt Seconded by: Trustee Drew **Carried**

Motion #: 04/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move out of in camera at 7:05 PM.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt Seconded by: Trustee Peters **Carried**

Board meeting called back to order at 7:10 PM

2. Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, play, and learn on Chief Drygeese Territory in the Akaitcho region, the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Chairperson Wasylciw welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the Community Hide Camp held at Mildred Hall School was a great event and was well attended. The Indigenous Honour Ceremony at École Sir John Franklin High School was also held recently. It was well attended and a wonderful ceremony. He also noted that June is Indigenous Peoples Month and also Pride Month. YK1 had great representation at the Pride parade, and numerous events were held at YK1 schools, such as NJ Macpherson School's Pride Parade. While also recognizing the great number of visible displays around the City during Pride including the crosswalk and flag at City Hall and the stairs at Northern United Place. With YK1's focus on inclusion, we want to continue growing our community participation.

This is the last Board meeting of this school year. Some of the items the Board has dealt with over the year were mentioned. This included the new NWT curriculum rollout, which is going well, new staff have come on board at the District and school levels, schools have been reviewed, the number of Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards was increased, and many other good things have taken place within the District.

Chairperson Wasylciw believes the coming fall and school year will be great. With some adversity comes lessons, learning opportunities and the possibility for improvement.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #: 05/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adopt the June 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting agenda, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Bell **Carried**

6. Delegations & Presentations

6.1. School Water Testing, Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

In lieu of a presentation, which was deferred, questions will be collated by the Chair and sent to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Responses will be shared at a future meeting.

The following questions arose during the meeting:

1. What steps can be taken to reassure parents that their children are safe at school?
2. What were the initial sampling protocols/methods provided to districts?

3. Who is doing the third-party investigation work?
4. Who is doing the (enhanced) sampling, what protocols/methods are used, and is there a sampling plan that the Trustees can review?
5. What is the scope of work for the contractors doing the confirmatory sampling and analysis?
6. Is there a clear communication plan with YK1, and how will we be notified/involved in the process going forward?
7. Why are only the schools that failed the initial tests being tested when water sampling that passed the test could have had challenges?
8. If this is now a regular program, is there an ongoing sampling plan that can be shared with YK1?
9. Who will be responsible for ongoing water sampling in YK1-owned schools?
10. If a territorial-wide monitoring plan is being developed, will it include next steps for intervention and outcomes?
11. In ongoing sampling programs, will the tests only be for lead or other contaminants as well?
12. If a school fails the testing again, what are the next steps?
13. Who is responsible for finding the source of the problem and taking action?
14. Before additional results are released, what plan is in place for communications and next steps?

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

7.1. May 13, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting

Motion #: 06/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the May 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Bell **Carried**

7.2. May 20, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting (Education)

Motion #: 07/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the May 20, 2025, Regular Board Meeting (Education) minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Drew **Carried**

Some discussion was held regarding the education meeting. It was noted that in the past, the Board had approved holding a number of second monthly Board meetings for presentations on a variety of education-related topics.

After some discussion regarding the requirement to hold a Ratepayers meeting, it was suggested that adding the Ratepayers meeting as an action item next year could be used as a way to track that the meeting is held. It was noted that the Ratepayers meeting for this year is part of the Secretary Treasurer's report for this meeting.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. Business Arising

none

8.2. Action Items

Trustee Snaggs joined the meeting at 7:49 PM

Motion #: 08/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the updated action item list as discussed.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Bell **Carried**

9. Trustee Statements

Per Bylaws: *Trustee Statements are individual opinions and are not intended to represent the views of the Board. Trustee statements are not debatable and there will be no opportunity for rebuttal or questions.*

No statements were received.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1. Update on École William McDonald Middle School (WMS)/École Allain St.Cyr (EASC) Schools' Parking

There is a summary in the package. Changes have been made already, and some changes are scheduled to take place during the summer. There are still some challenges that need to be addressed. The upcoming changes were reviewed.

Action: Administration asked to provide an update at the October Board meeting.

11. New Business

11.1. District Achievements Update

Report included in the agenda package.

Assistant Superintendent Arts reviewed the report. The following was also noted:

- EDI results are from last year. This year's results will be available in Aug/Sept.
- MDI was reviewed
- A verbal overview was given of the ILE program. One important point to note is that there continues to be a broad degree of participation by students, and also now participation by staff via extracurricular ILE opportunities.
- There will likely be a change to the assessment next year.
- There was some concern about participation in FSAs. 85% of our grade 4s were at or extending in literacy and 90% at or extending in numeracy, which are great numbers to see.

Trustees suggested that in the future more time be allocated to review the report.

Trustees asked how assessments will change with the transition to the new curriculum. Administration indicated that the District Education Services team regularly discuss results and uses them in a data-informed approach to bring about further improvements for students in the classroom. YK1 continues to work toward the BC assessment models. We hope to see similar results to what has been seen in the past. It was also noted that the District uses assessments developed in BC.

Trustees asked what some of the inferences are coming out of the data and what the Board can do to support staff and the District office team to drive improvements for students who are emerging to ensure they meet or exceed expectations.

Trustees noted that it seems we have come through the COVID dip and thanked staff for all their work in this regard. Administration indicated that the Education Services team has done a lot of work in this area. Attendance definitely also has an impact and will be tracked more in-depth in the future.

11.2. 2025-2026 Operating Budget

Motion #: 09/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the 2025-26 Operating Budget as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Bell **Carried**

The budget information is in the agenda package.

Secretary Treasurer Vass noted that the City has approved the increase to the mill rate and reviewed the changes made to the budget.

Trustees noted that the budget deficit is not sustainable and may require budget cuts in the near future.

Secretary Treasurer Vass noted that Jordan's Principle funding is not included because of the current situation with that funding. She also noted some of the approaches that will be taken in the fall.

Finance and Facilities Committee Chairperson Snaggs thanked Secretary Treasurer Vass and the District office team for the great job done in putting the budget together.

11.3. 2025-2026 Operating Plan

Motion #: 10/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the 2025-26 Operating Plan as proposed.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

Trustees expressed their thanks for all the work that goes into preparing the Operating Plan.

11.4. Range Lake North School Action Plan

Information is included in the agenda package.

Administration reviewed what has been done to date and what will happen in the fall. More community input will be sought.

Trustees applaud the level of work and collaboration that is being undertaken to redefine and revitalize RLN.

Action: Trustees will receive an update on the Action Plan as part of the School Improvement Plan in the fall.

11.5. Strategic Plan Extension

Motion #: 11/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees extend the existing Strategic Plan to 2025-26.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Peters **Carried**

Trustees noted that the Strategic Plan is the cornerstone of the District and that its review, to determine whether or not changes are needed, should be one of the main goals of the Board next year.

Action: Trustees to review the Strategic Plan early in 2025-2026

11.6. Communication Plan

Motion #: 12/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the text of the Communication Plan as presented

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Bell **Carried**

Public Engagement and Advocacy Committee Chairperson Brookes noted that the measures document is a side document, and not part of the Communication Plan put forward for approval.

Trustees thanked the committee and District office staff for their efforts. The Committee noted that some of the outcomes and measures were created from some of the comments provided.

11.7. Committee Transition

Information is included in the agenda package.

Trustee Bell recommends that every committee provide hand-off documents at the end of their annual term.

Motion #: 13/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees require that the outgoing Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Chairs and CSBA Representative complete a Committee Handoff Document prior to the Organizational Meeting, and that all completed documents be stored in the internal Board DRIVE, accessible to trustees and relevant staff.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Bell **Carried**

An example of a transition document is included in the agenda package. This would provide some knowledge of expectations and accountability and will help with committee orientation.

Trustee Bell volunteered to assist each current Chair to create a hand-off document for their committee.

11.8. Tentative Board Meeting Calendar 2025-2026

The proposed dates are included in the agenda package.

The dates are not set in stone and can be finalized the month before.

Trustees like having the dates in advance.

Action: Dates to be entered into the Boardroom and Trustee calendars

12. Reports

12.1. Chairperson’s Report

Included in the agenda package.

Board Chairperson Wasylciw highlighted that there have been extensive conversations and meetings around Jordan's Principle funding and water testing.

He especially noted the advocacy work done through the CSBA in meetings with senior officials at Indigenous Services Canada and at the Education Leaders table regarding the significant changes to Jordan's Principle.

He highlighted a number of discussions with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding these two key issues over the last few weeks. Further information will come forward as it becomes available. He also noted that a Board Chair message is now included in the District newsletter.

12.2. Standing Committee Reports

12.2.1. Finance & Facilities Committee

No report is included in the agenda package as the Committee was reviewing the budget.

12.2.2. Policy & Governance Committee

Committee Chairperson Peters indicated the committee has been unable to meet due to the unavailability of committee members and overlap with the Negotiation Committee meeting dates. Policy 5 is still being worked on. The IT/IM Policy is in the works as well and will resume when Assistant Superintendent Arts returns from leave. The Risk Policy in the action plan is still on the committee's radar as well.

12.2.3. Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee

Information is included in the agenda package. There were no questions.

12.2.4. Audit Committee

Committee Chairperson Bell asked Secretary Treasurer Vass to provide an update. The Audit Committee will meet with the auditor next week.

Committee Chairperson Bell thanked Secretary Treasurer and her team for all their work. There were no questions.

12.2.5. Committee of the Whole

The report is included in the agenda package. There were no questions.

12.2.6. NWTTA Teacher-Board Committee

There has not been a meeting.

Trustees suggested that at least 2 meetings with NWTTA for the year be set early in the new year.

12.2.7. USW-Board Advisory Committee

No meeting has been held.

12.3. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

12.3.1. Negotiations Committee

Negotiations with the NWTTA are ongoing. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

12.4. Superintendents Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

12.4.1. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

The annual report is underway. A draft will be circulated in late June for information.

Trustees asked what the 4Ps referenced by Niigaan Sinclair were. Superintendent Zouboules explained that the 4Ps refer to:

Presence, Practice, Pedagogy and Permanence

Information additional to what is in the report was also shared:

- More recent data shows 80%+ are meeting or extending in both literacy and numeracy.
- A number of after-school and weekend workshops on cultural safety were added for staff. Over 100 staff members participated. We now have staff trained to deliver the blanket exercise.

Trustees asked that results and staff development action reports be combined to show "these are the issues and these are the proposed solutions".

Trustees also asked for information regarding the graduation rate.

12.4.2. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Learning Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Trustees asked about Principal appointments. Administration indicated that Lea Lamoureux has been appointed as Principal for MHS and for École Įtł'ǫ, Heidi Bourdreau and Christina O'Reilly have been appointed as the Principal and Assistant Principal, respectively, and Elizabeth Brace will be the new Assistant Principal at NJ Macpherson School.

12.4.3. Secretary Treasurer Report

The report is included in the agenda package, including information on the Ratepayers meeting.

There were no questions.

12.4.3.1. Director of Operations Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Trustees asked if we are on track for summer projects. Director of Operations Martin indicated that we are.

12.5. Trustee Reports

12.5.1. Trustee Brookes' report is included in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

12.6. Trustee PAC Meeting Reports

12.6.1. École Ɪtł'ǫ

Trustee Peters attended the meeting.

12.6.2. Mildred Hall School

Trustee Bell was not able to attend but had dropped off some items for teacher appreciation.

12.6.3. N.J. Macpherson School

No update. Trustee Bell noted that she attended their spring show and indicated that it was wonderful.

Motion #: 14/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees extend the June 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

12.6.4. Range Lake North School

Trustee Brookes attended the meeting. Hot dogs and water were the main topics of discussion.

12.6.5. École Sir John Franklin High School

Trustee Shortt attended the meeting. The PAC asked that the Board send the Board highlights to the school Principals to share at PAC meetings.

Action: Discuss PAC suggestion about providing Board highlights to school PACs.

12.6.6. École William McDonald Middle School

The meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at Trustee Drew's house. She invited everyone who would like to is welcome to attend.

13. Announcements - events calendar attached

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

August 19, 2025	6:00 PM	Organizational Meeting
August 19, 2025	6:30 PM	Executive Session (In-camera)
August 19, 2025	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting

15. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Chairperson Wasylciw thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also took the opportunity to congratulate Trustee Brookes on his retirement from the Government of the NWT. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, he congratulated the 110 graduates, which included 30 Indigenous graduates, from SJF and the numerous other students moving up to new schools in the fall.

Indigenous Peoples' Day is on Saturday, June 21st. He encourages everyone to attend the celebrations being held around Yellowknife.

Superintendent Zouboules shared that schools will be holding feed the fire ceremonies and encourages everyone to attend at least one.

Chairperson Wasylciw noted there are 489 days until the next trustee election.

16. Adjournment

Motion #: 15/06-17/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adjourn the June 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Bell **Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM

Chairperson Wasylciw

Secretary Treasurer Vass