



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

October 14, 2025 – 6:30 PM

In-person and online via Google Meet

(in camera 6:30 - 7:00 PM)

Trustees Present: Allan Shortt, Barbara Bell, David Wasylciw, Jason Snaggs (online), Michelle Peters, Terry Brookes (online) and Tina Drew

Regrets: none

Administration Present: Shirley Zouboules, Lisa Vass, Landon Kowalzik, Graham Arts, and Pat Thagard

Regrets: Jordan Martin

Guests present: Adrian Bell, NWT Arts presenter
Adelee Penner, 10 guests in person, 1 guest online
CBC reporter

Meeting Chairperson: Trustee Bell

Meeting Minutes by: Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM. Seven (7) Trustees were present. Quorum was met.

Motion #: 01/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move to in camera at 6:33

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

Motion #: 02/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move out of in camera at 6:37 PM.

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

Trustee Drew joined the meeting in progress.

Motion #: 03/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move to in camera at 6:40

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

Motion #: 04/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move out of in camera at 6:52 PM.

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

Superintendent Zouboules was asked to join the Board. The following motion was made as soon as she joined the Board.

Motion #: 05/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move into in camera at 6:53

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw

Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

Motion #: 06/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move out of in camera at 7:03 PM.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt

Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

The Board meeting was called back to order at 7:05 PM

2. Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, 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 Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Adrian Bell, Dr. Sara Komarnisky and Bob Overvold from the NWT Arts Centre initiative and all the guests present.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #: 07/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adopt the October 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting agenda, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt

Seconded by: Trustee Wasylciw

Carried

6. Delegations & Presentations

6.1. Adrian Bell, NWT Arts Centre Initiative with Bob Overvold and Dr. Sara Komarnisky.

The presentation and information booklet are included in the agenda package.

The presenters requested that the Board consider providing a letter of support for their land application.

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

7.1. September 9, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting

Motion #: 08/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the September 9, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw

Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

7.2. September 26, 2025 - Special Board Meeting

Motion #: 09/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the September 26, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) Trustees requested that the superintendent look into hosting Education Leaders meetings in schools.

Action: add “discussion about hosting Education meetings at Schools” to the action item list for further discussion at a future Board meeting.

- b) The following motion was made regarding *restoration of the school nurse program*, which was discussed at the September 9, 2025 Board meeting.

Motion#: 10/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees direct the Chairperson to write to the Ministers of Health and Social Services and Education regarding the restoration of the school nurse program at YK1 that has been absent since 2020.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

- c) Trustees noted that information is useful for balancing class size and budgets as well as estimating where pressures might be in the future. Trustees also noted that class composition is more important than class size.

8.1. Action Items

Motion #: 11/10-14/25-26

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

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

8.1.1. Request for Review and Update of Financial Regulations & Policies for Outside Boards

Correspondence was sent and a response was received.

Action: Add “Request for Review and Update of Financial Regulations & Policies for Outside Boards” to the next Committee of the Whole (COW) agenda for discussion.

8.1.2. Summary of YK1 Music Programs (A/Superintendent Arts)

The board requested further information on the following:

- Components of an ideal music program,
- Information on staffing challenges,
- More information on the main areas of YK1 fine arts.

Action: Administration to formulate what the issues are and provide possible solutions for the Board to consider.

5 minutes recess called by Chairperson Bell at 7:32 PM

Meeting reconvened at 7:37 PM

9. Trustee Statements

Per By-Laws: *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.*

9.1 None were submitted

10. Unfinished Business

10.1. Correspondence (Trustee Bell)

10.1.1. Urgent Call for Immediate Retrofit of École William McDonald Middle School

Discussion resulted in the following:

- Concern about the lack of commitment from the Minister for a school that was built in 1982 and is well overdue for a retrofit.
- Trustees would like to know why this school's retrofit is now being delayed another three years.

Action: Add this topic to the agenda for the next meeting with the Minister of ECE.

10.1.2. *Academic Year & School Attendance Regulations*

This topic will be added to the next NWT Leaders meeting agenda.

10.1.3. Akaitcho Hall Land

YK1 would be interested in the land; however, we do not have the capacity to build on it.

Given other interests in the land, it is not something to take lightly because the YK1 response to the Minister may impact the future use of the land.

Action: Chairperson Bell to request another extension to respond to the Minister's letter so that the Board can discuss further.

10.2 2024-2025 Annual Report & Audited Financial Statement Documents

A copy of the document approved at the September 9, 2025, Board meeting is included in this agenda package for trustee reference.

11. New Business

11.1. 2025-2026 Budget Reductions Preparations (Trustee Brookes)

Information contained in the agenda package.

Motion #: 12/10-14/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees, as a start to cost savings, discontinue serving lunch at Board and Committee Meetings, unless special occasions warrant the providing of meals.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: No seconder

Motion did not proceed

11.2. Education Leaders (Trustee Bell)

Chairperson Bell asked Trustees to provide feedback to her on the items listed.

11.3. Handover Documents (Trustee Bell)

Information is in the agenda package for information purposes.

11.4. Strategic Plan (Trustee Bell)

Chairperson Bell requested approval of the Board's Strategic Priorities, in principle so that next steps can begin at the district & school level.

Motion #: 13/10-14/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve, in principle, the Board's Strategic Priorities, on pages 218 and 219 of the agenda package, so that indicators and measurables can be developed.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Shortt

Carried

12. Reports

12.1. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Bell's report is included in the agenda package.

12.2. Trustee Reports

12.2.1. Trustee Drew Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

12.3 Canadian School Board Association Report (Trustee Brookes)

The CSBA meeting occurred last week. Some highlights provided by Trustees Wasyliw and Brookes included:

- The advocacy discussion with Members of Parliament and Senators was productive, covering issues such as Jordan's Principle. Trustees noted the value of hearing perspectives from across the country, and were also updated on planning underway for the CSBA Conference taking place in Whistler, BC, in July 2026.

12.4 Superintendents Report

Report included in the agenda package.

- Superintendent Zouboules shared the little books created by MHS students on Truth and Reconciliation, which will be developed into an E-zine. She also noted ongoing work to clarify the role of wellness mentors, highlighted Dr. Cindy Blackstock's 2023 keynote for YK1 staff, and shared examples of how reconciliation continues to be woven into classroom learning. Bussing is running smoothly, and the City is exploring adding YK1 and YCS elections to the next municipal ballot, with more details expected in the new year. Administration also noted that recent media training was very beneficial.

12.4.1 Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning Report

13. Standing Committee Reports

Trustees to reach out to Chairperson Bell with their meeting dates.

13.1. Audit Committee

The Committee had nothing to report at this time.

13.2. Committee of the Whole (COW)

The report is included in the agenda package.

The Federal School Food Program item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

13.3. Finance & Facilities Committee

Next meeting scheduled for October 28th.

13.4. NWTTA Teacher-Board Committee - these meetings are on hold due to negotiations.

13.5. Policy & Governance Committee

The committee has had its first meeting and will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month. A committee chairperson has not yet been chosen. The committee withdrew *Policy 6 - Role of the Board Chairperson*, as it was noted that another change is required.

Motion #: 16/10-14/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the recommendation from the Policy & Governance Committee that no changes were required to Policy 2 - Role of the Board.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Snaggs

Carried

Motion #: 17/10-14/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees accept the first reading of Policy 3 - Role of the Trustee as presented in the agenda package.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Snaggs

Carried

Discussion around the format of the revision history included with each Policy resulted in agreement to have a very brief description included with the policy and a more detailed history to be included in a master revision history appendix document.

Motion #: 18/10-14/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees extend the Board meeting to 10:30 PM so as to complete the items on the agenda.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

13.6. Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee

The committee has had some informal discussions. Meeting dates will be determined in the near future.

13.7. USW Board Advisory Committee - has not met.

Per the collective agreement, the USW representative would be the party to reach out to YK1 to initiate the setting up of a meeting.

14. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

14.1. Negotiations Committee - NWTTA

Negotiation meetings will continue tomorrow for the next 3 days.

14.2. Negotiations Committee - USW

Negotiations will start on October 21st and run through to October 24th.

15. Announcements - events calendar attached

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

October 21, 2025	6:00 PM	Board Education Information Session
November 12, 2025	12:10 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
November 12, 2025	6:30 PM	Executive Session (In camera)
November 12, 2025	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
November 25, 2025	6:00 PM	Board Education Information Session

17. Chairperson’s Closing Remarks

Chairperson Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

18. Adjournment

Motion #: 19/10-14/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adjourn the October 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM

Chairperson Bell

Secretary Treasurer Vass