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

March 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM
In-person and online via Google Meet
(in camera 6:30 - 7:00 PM)

Trustees Present:	Allan Shortt, Barbara Bell, Jason Snaggs (online), Michelle Peters and Terry Brookes
Regrets:	David Wasylciw and Tina Drew
Administration Present:	Shirley Zouboules, Lisa Vass, Landon Kowalzik, Graham Arts, Jordan Martin and Pat Thagard
Regrets:	none
Guests present:	none
Meeting Chairperson:	Trustee Barbara Bell
Meeting Minutes by:	Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

   The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

   Five (5) Trustees were present. Quorum was met.

Motion #: 01/03-10/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) Board of Trustees move into in-camera at 6:30 PM.

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

Motion #: 02/03-10/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees move out of in camera at 6:48 PM.

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

The Board meeting was called back to order at 7:00 PM

2. Land Acknowledgement

   Chairperson Bell respectfully acknowledged 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 and noted that the spring sunshine is very nice to see.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

   None declared.

5. Adoption of Agenda

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

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees adopt the March 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda, as presented.

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

Friendly amendment - removal of 2nd paragraph of the land acknowledgement.

6. Delegations & Presentations

none

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

7.1. February 10, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #: 04/03-10/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the February 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes, as presented.

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

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

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 No Trustee statements were received.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1. Deferred Agenda Items - from February 10, 2026 Board Meeting

10.1 Secretary Treasurer Report (Secretary Treasurer Vass)

The highlights of the February report were reviewed, including a summary about work on the upcoming election.

10.2 Director of Operations Report (Director Martin)

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

10.3 Audit Committee (Chairperson Peters)

The first meeting took place after the February Board meeting. Therefore, was no report for the February Board meeting package.

10.4 Committee of the Whole (Chairperson Shortt)

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

10.5 Finance Committee (Chairperson Brookes)

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

10.6 Facilities Committee (Chairperson TBD)

The Committee has not yet met. Chairperson Bell encouraged the committee members to connect soon.

10.7 NWTTA Teacher-Board Committee (Chairperson TBD)

The next meeting is being planned for May. Trustee Shortt attended the meeting held in February. Some comments and issues were addressed. The highest priority concern discussed was Jordan's Principal funding.

10.8 Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee (Trustee Wasylciw)

Trustee Peters noted that at a recent meeting of the Committee, the Sacred Feather Award was discussed, as was the possible resurrection of a public-facing annual report.

10.9 USW Board Advisory Committee (Chairperson TBD)

The Committee has not met.

11. New Business

11.1 Education Leaders - Unified NWT cell phone usage policy (Trustee Bell)

Trustees suggested the Board policy should be high-level, leaving schools to outline expectations and related procedures.

Trustees noted that a recent documentary suggested a link between the distraction caused by personal electronic devices (such as cell phones and iPads) in schools and a decline in overall academic performance, particularly in reading and writing skills. It was suggested that the Board undertake a thorough review of this topic to develop a policy aimed at limiting the distractions these devices cause and ensuring responsible use of technology. Minimizing distraction for students in the younger grades was highlighted as a matter of particular importance.

Chairperson Bell is seeking support for the creation of an NWT-wide policy.

Motion #: 05/03-10/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees support exploring greater alignment on cell phone usage policies across the Northwest Territories and direct the Chair to communicate this position at the Education Leaders table.

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

11.2 Presentation to Standing Committee on Social Development (Trustee Bell)

Chairperson Bell indicated YK1 has been asked to present to the GNWT Standing Committee on Social Development on the impact of the reduction of Jordan's Principle funding. Administration indicated that the presentation is meant to give a YK1 perspective on the Jordan's Principle funding. Chairperson Bell indicated that YCS has also been asked to present.

Motion #: 06/03-10/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the Chair to accept the invitation from the Standing Committee on Social Development and present on the impacts of the reduction in Jordan's Principle funding.

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

11.3 Consideration of Preliminary Reciprocal School Tours (Trustee Bell)

This topic was discussed at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting yesterday. Trustee Brookes noted that he is willing to allow the tours and supports the full use of all schools. However, he is not willing to give up a school.

Trustee Peters called a Point of Order, citing that the question before the Board is whether or not to agree to the tours. Chairperson Bell agreed with the Point of Order.

Trustees agreed that all trustees able to do so should take part in the tours so as to be informed for future decisions.

Motion #: 07/03-10/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees confirm participation in preliminary reciprocal school tours with the Commission scolaire francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, and authorize the Chair to confirm next steps with the Minister's office.

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

12. Reports

12.1. Chairperson's Report (Trustee Bell)

The report is included in the agenda package.

Chairperson Bell thanked École William McDonald Middle School (WMS), Mildred Hall School (MHS) and École Sir John Franklin High School (SJF) for welcoming the Board to meet with them. It was a wonderful engagement opportunity. One of the main comments from all the schools was the state of school bathroom facilities. Administration noted that it is a common, ongoing issue in all schools and it points to the age of our buildings and that addressing the issue requires an overhaul of bathroom facilities.

Chairperson Bell will send a thank-you note to each of the schools.

12.2. Trustee Reports

12.2.1. No reports were submitted.

12.3 Canadian School Board Association Report (Trustee Brookes)

The report is in the package.

During the February Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) meeting, Trustee Brookes took in a tour of a Cree school. The school was very impressive. He has requested a copy of the floor plan to share. The meeting included presentations on the evolution of Indigenous education.

Trustee Brookes has been assigned to both the Governance and Health Committees of the CSBA.

Trustees had a discussion on the cost of attending meetings. This topic is an agenda item for the April Board meeting.

12.4 Superintendents Report (Shirley Zouboules)

The report is included in the package.

Discussion included student teachers coming to YK1 to do their practicum, and the new

YK1 Education Assistant (EA) recognition day.

The draft Strategic Plan Working Document was reviewed, including how information will be captured and progress to date. Checklists and surveys will be used to create a public-facing, Board-approved document. The Annual Report is envisioned as a celebratory, positive document which also notes current District challenges.

An overview of the current review of Administrative Procedures (APs) was given. The District has 187 Administrative Procedures. Up to nine new APs are being considered. Forms and appendices are also being sought out, reviewed and updated.

12.4.1 Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning Report (Graham Arts)

The report is included in the agenda package.

Discussion included APs are now posted individually on the website, alignment between the Strategic Plan and the School Improvement Plans, and work on the Home Schooling AP.

12.4.2 Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Learning Report (Landon Kowlazik)

The report is included in the agenda package.

Discussion included information on substitute teachers and the successful use of virtual screening of potential new teachers.

A 4-minute recess was called from 8:21 to 8:25 PM

12.4.3 Secretary Treasurer Report (Lisa Vass)

The report is included in the agenda package.

Discussion included the receipt of information from the City, the upcoming election, meeting with the new Regional Vice President of Transdev, and consideration being given to extending the Transdev contract by 3 years (per current contract).

Trustees asked if the bussing contract includes a service standard agreement section. Secretary Treasurer Vass will review the contract and advise.

12.4.4 Director of Operations Report (Jordan Martin)

The report is included in the agenda package.

Administration noted that Finance is compiling the costs associated with the lead in water to send to Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) for reimbursement.

New equipment purchased has made snow removal more efficient and cost-effective.

13. Standing Committee Reports

13.1 Audit Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Peters)

The committee met on February 12th.

Discussion included a recommendation by the auditor to change materiality from $850K to $1.3M to comply with new national auditing standards.

13.2 Committee of the Whole (COW) (Chairperson: Trustee Shortt)

The agenda for yesterday's meeting and the February meeting minutes are included in the agenda package. There were no questions.

13.3 Finance Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Brookes)

The report for the Feb 24th meeting is in the package.

13.4 Facilities Committee (Chairperson: TBD)

The Committee has not met.

13.5 NWTTA Teach-Board Committee (Chairperson: Trustee TBD)

A date for the next meeting is to be determined.

13.6 Policy & Governance Committee, Chairperson: Trustee Drew

A report is included in the agenda package. Many policies are currently being reviewed.

Motion #: 08/03-10/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees table Policy 13 - Staff Reductions for Trustee feedback.

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

13.7 Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Wasylciw)

On behalf of the Committee Trustee Peters highlighted some of the items the committee is currently working on.

Trustees asked to have key messages for the Trade Show added to the agenda for the next Board meeting. The Committee was asked to create a preliminary list of key messages as a starting point for the next Board meeting.

13.8 USW Board Advisory Committee, Chairperson: Trustee TBD

The Committee has not met.

13.9 Action Items

Discussion included the importance of YK1 having an asset registry, including a shared small asset registry for items that schools can share (e.g. canoes, bicycles, etc). Chairperson Bell asked Trustee Peters to consider switching to the Facilities Committee, given her expertise in this area.

Trustee Brookes spoke to item VII on the Committee Action Item List, noting that it is difficult to determine where funds for an individual position come from. Administration indicated that during the last Finance Committee meeting, funding, FTEs, etc., were broken down into as much detail as possible. Item VII is to be added to the next Board meeting for further discussion.

Motion #: 09/03-10/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees accept the updates to the action items as discussed.

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

14. Announcements - events calendar attached

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

March 24, 2026	6:00 PM	Board Education Information Session
April 13, 2026	12:10 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 14, 2026	6:30 PM	Executive Session (In camera)
April 14, 2026	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
April 28, 2026	6:00 PM	Board Education Information Session - Technology

16. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Chairperson Bell thanked everyone for attending & DO staff for all their work.

17. Adjournment

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

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees, March 10, 2026, Board meeting be adjourned.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

Chairperson Bell

Secretary Treasurer Vass