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

June 9, 2026 – 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 and Jason Snaggs (online), Terry Brookes (online) and Tina Drew
Regrets:	Michelle Peters
Administration Present:	Shirley Zouboules, Lisa Vass, Landon Kowalzik, Graham Arts, and Pat Thagard
Guests present:	Umaymah Suhail, Yellowknifer (online), Jodi Lee-Lewis (online)
Meeting Chairperson:	Barbara Bell
Meeting Minutes by:	Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Six (6) Trustees were present. Quorum was met.

Motion #: 01/06-09/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) Board of Trustees move to in-camera at 6:31 PM.

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

Motion #: 02/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees move out of in-camera at 6:32 PM because of the arrival of Trustee Wasylciw.

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

Motion #: 03/06-09/25-26

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) Board of Trustees move to in-camera at 6:32 PM.

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

Motion #: 04/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees move out of in-camera at 6:55 PM.

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

A brief recess was called.

The Board meeting was called back to order at 7:01 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 extended a welcome to all attendees, reviewed work being done on the Board workplan, thanked Trustee Shortt for stepping in while she was away, thanked the MLAs for meeting with the Board as well as the MLA efforts to make changes for the upcoming election and acknowledged the guests who joined online.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

   None declared.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #: 05/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees adopt the June 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Motion #: 06/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees amend the June 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda by replacing the 11.5 topic with Local Authorities Elections Act Follow-up (Trustee Wasylciw) and adding 11.7 Rescinding of May Board Meeting Motion (*#11/05-12/25-26) to approve the 2026-2027 Budget that was passed at the last Board meeting.*

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

Main motion **05/06-09/25-26**, as amended **Carried**

6. Delegations & Presentations

   None

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

   7.1. May 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #: 07/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the May 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes, as presented.

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

No discussion arose from approval of the minutes.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

   Questions were raised regarding trustee orientation following the fall election. Administration advised that no update is available at this time. Administration also noted that the District Education Authority/District Education Council (DEA/DEC) manual distributed by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is currently being updated.

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 by the Secretary Treasurer for this meeting.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 2026-2027 Budget Approval (Secretary Treasurer Vass)

Questions were raised regarding the projected enrolment increase of 45 students for the 2026–2027 school year and how this growth is reflected in the budget. Administration advised that YK1 is awaiting further information from the ECE (ECE) regarding funding for the additional students.

Discussion also occurred regarding a news article referencing a 14% increase in the requisition requested from the City. Administration noted that the municipal mill rate remained unchanged, while property assessments increased by approximately 14%. Administration further advised that the budget documents had been updated to reflect the revised assessment information provided by the City.

Motion #: 08/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees rescind motion 11/05-12/25-26 from the May 12, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting.

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

Secretary Treasurer Vass noted that rescinding the previous motion is a formality.

Motion #: 09/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the final 2026-2027 Budget as presented at the June 9, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting.

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

Recorded Vote:

Trustee Drew opposed motion 09/06-09/25-26

10.2 Approval of 2026-2027 Operating Plan (Assistant Superintendent Arts)

Motion #: 10/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the Operating Plan for 2026-2027 as presented and direct the Superintendent to incorporate the required budget schedules and complete the steps for its submission to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

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

Administration advised that most of the proposed changes involved the addition of information to existing fields and were primarily housekeeping in nature.

Discussion included the recommended policies referenced in the materials. Administration noted that these policies pertain to GNWT schools and are not applicable to YK1 as an independent school board.

Motion #: 11/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees commit the section in the plan regarding policies to the Policy & Governance Committee to investigate the policy requirements.

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

Discussion included the Northwest Territories-wide operating plan template and how it applies to YK1. It was noted that where YK1 does not have a corresponding policy or bylaw, this should be reflected in the plan.

Questions were raised regarding students requiring one-to-one support and the funding associated with those needs. Administration advised that there are currently 84 students identified as requiring one-to-one support and acknowledged a funding gap reflected in the budget. Administration further explained that the determination of one-to-one support needs is made through a collaborative process and that additional public funding is expected to be provided to the district.

Suggestions were made to include information regarding the funding shortfall in the operating plan submission letter. Administration noted that additional funding is anticipated and is expected to help address the shortfall.

Motion #: 12/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees amend motion 10/06-09/25-26 to include a note about the Board's concerns about funding for educational assistants for students with needs in the cover letter that will accompany the operating plan when it is sent to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

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

Main motion **10/06-09/25-26**, as amended **Carried**

Motion #: 13/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees provide a list of policies legislated by the Government of the Northwest Territories to the September Board meeting.

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

10.3 Trustee Travel Expenses (Trustee Brookes)

Motion #: 14/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees have Administration review the Trustee expense claims for the current term of the Board to ensure proper procedures have been applied to Trustee travel expense claims.

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

Trustee Brookes spoke to the reasons for the motion.

Trustee Drew called a point of order. Chairperson Bell did not support the Point of Order.

Trustee Brookes indicated he believes the Board must correct inconsistencies noted on expense claims and thinks this is a small formality to address them.

It was suggested that Trustees meet to review. This suggestion was not supported because it would be a conflict of interest. Another suggestion was that the Chairperson speak to individual Trustees as required, rather than adding tasks for staff or the expense of asking the auditors to review. Chairperson Bell had requested this be brought forward so that there is a clear procedure and consistency.

Motion #: 15/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees move to in-camera.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: none **Motion did not proceed**

Trustee Drew began to speak to audits. Board Chairperson Bell called a Point of Order and called for a vote on the motion on the table.

Motion 14/06-09/25-26 Carried

Recorded Vote:

Trustee Brookes voted in favour of motion 14/06-09/25-26

Trustees Drew & Wasylciw opposed motion 14/06-09/25-26

11. New Business

11.1 School Improvement Plans (SIP) Oral Presentation (Assistant Superintendent Arts)

Assistant Superintendent Arts went through his presentation, which was shared with Trustees via email earlier in the evening.

Trustees were provided with the presentation and discussion occurred regarding the timing for its review. It was suggested that trustees be given additional time to review the material and that further discussion take place at a future meeting. Trustees were invited to submit any questions to Assistant Superintendent Arts in advance to support preparation for that discussion.

Questions were raised regarding changes from previous versions. Assistant Superintendent Arts advised that schools have sometimes identified challenges that are reflected in qualitative data, which can be more difficult to summarize. He also noted that the process is currently in transition, which has influenced the approach being taken.

11.2 Evaluation Report (Trustee Shortt

Motion #: 16/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the Board's Term Evaluation Report, as developed in a facilitated workshop on May 23, 2026,

AND FURTHER, that the Board Chair be authorized to monitor the suggestions agreed to and bring items forward for Board consideration, as deemed appropriate.

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

No discussion.

11.3 Bussing (Trustee Drew)

Motion #: 17/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees request an updated Bussing Report, which would highlight the cost of a seat per year, funding from GNWT, amount received from parents, and if YK1 has to subsidize bussing.

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

The last bussing report presented to the Board was in 2023. It was noted that bussing fees have not increased since 2012 despite significant growth in transportation costs.

Administration reported that a submission had been made to the ECE (ECE), but the report requires updating as information from Transdev was still outstanding. The current bussing contract and extension were reviewed. Administration advised that an updated report would be presented to the Finance Committee and subsequently to the Board in August or September.

Discussion included transportation funding challenges being experienced in other jurisdictions. It was noted that Hay River is reportedly not planning to renew its bussing contract due to funding pressures, and that this development may have implications for future discussions regarding student transportation funding.

11.4 Sacred Feather Nominations (Trustee Wasylciw)

Motion #: 18/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees accept the recommendations for the Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards made by the Public Engagement and Advocacy Committee.

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

Chair Wasylciw, representing the Committee, expressed gratitude to district office staff for their efforts regarding the awards and to staff across the district for the nominations submitted this year. He noted that Doreen Cleary, a former YK1 Trustee and the person who initiated the award, was invited to participate in the nomination review meeting with the Public Engagement and Advocacy (PE&A) Committee.

A brief recess was called from 8:17 to 8:22 PM.

11.5 *Local Authorities Elections Act (LAEA)* Follow-up (Trustee Wasylciw)

Motion #: 19/06-09/25-26

I move that Trustees send a note of thanks to MLA Morse for bringing forward Bill 51, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act, and a note of thanks to all Yellowknife MLAs for supporting the Board's advocacy for legislative changes.

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

It was noted that Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) went out of their way and all NWT MLAs unanimously voted in favour of the Bill. This is not a common occurrence in the Legislative Assembly and highlights the benefit of having meetings with the Yellowknife MLAs.

Motion #: 20/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees direct Administration to move ahead with all necessary steps to partner with Elections NWT, the City of Yellowknife, and the Yellowknife Catholic School Board for the administration of the 2026 local election.

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

Trustees asked if the cost to YK1 is known. Administration indicated the city is planning to have that information available in the next week.

Motion #: 21/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees direct the 72 as soon as possible.

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

The reason for the by-law was explained. The by-law is required per legislation.

11.6 ECE Correspondence (Trustee Bell)

A copy of the correspondence is in the package for information. Trustees noted that the letter references that legislation is attached, but it is not included in the meeting package. Chairperson Bell explained that the legislation attached to the letter is marked as “CONFIDENTIAL” so that is why it was not included in the package. The legislation document has been shared with trustees. Any comments or questions are to be emailed to Chairperson Bell by Friday, June 12th.

A question was raised that since the school calendar dictates when the Board must meet, should this be part of the discussion? It was indicated that different legislation governs when the Board meets; therefore, it is not relevant to this topic.

11.7 Strategic Plan

Motion #: 22/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve this plan as reviewed and updated at the Board Meeting on June 9, 2026, to allow a successful start to the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Trustee Drew suggested this plan be in place through to the 2027-2028 school year since there will be a new Board in place after the election in the fall.

12. Reports

12.1. Chairperson’s Report (Trustee Bell)

The report is included in the agenda package.

No questions

12.2. Trustee Reports

12.2.1. Trustee Brookes

The report is included in the agenda package.

No questions

12.2.2. Trustee Drew

A verbal report was given on Trustee Drew’s attendance at a Pride event during which youth asked people to consider wearing a pronoun pin as a way to model inclusivity and to normalize sharing gender identities.

12.3 Canadian School Board Association Report (Trustee Brookes)

The report is in the agenda package.

Trustees requested receiving the CSBA meeting agenda in advance to allow trustees to provide the YK1 representative with feedback/information before the meeting.

12.4 Superintendent Report (Shirley Zouboules)

The report is included in the package.

A few highlights were added verbally:

- The artwork around the room was shared and installed by Mildred Hall School (MHS) as a sampling of the items that were showcased during their recent fine arts evening.
- Also, tomorrow, grade 7 students from École William McDonald Middle School (WMS) will be presenting to City Council about rezoning some areas in Yellowknife for agriculture and on equitable housing.
- YK1 will be attending the Pride Parade on June 14th. Trustees were also

advised that if they would like to receive a pronoun pin, to let the Superintendent know; there are students who can make them.

Suggestions were made to send congratulatory letters to École Sir John Franklin High School (SJF) students who participated in the Skills Canada competition, as well as a letter of appreciation to Mildred Hall School (MHS) students for sharing their artwork with the District Office.

12.4.1 Assist. Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning Report (Graham Arts)

The report is included in the agenda package.

- Work on Professional Development (PD) for next year has begun.
- A student graduating from SJF this year has been hired by YK1 for the Indigenous Language Education (ILE) program.

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

The report is included in the agenda package.

Comments & Responses to questions:

- At present, it looks like we will need an additional 5 FTE for next year; However, MHS & École Įtł'ǫ̀ usually get a lot of registrations during the summer. Therefore, summer registrations have not been factored in yet. There is a typo in the projection document. It is a projection for 2026-2027.
- There are 7 positions left to fill, which is not anticipated to be an issue.
- Some specialty classrooms may be used for homeroom classes if enrolment is high.
- YK1 does not provide benefits to substitute teachers.
- The Range Lake North School (RLN) projection has a lower number again for next year; Another CASA class may be added. The school is in a good place of rebuilding. The rebuilding plan is part of the RLN School Improvement Plan (SIP). The decrease at RLN was caused by the removal of the Intensive French (IF) Program and at N.J. MacPherson School (NJM) by closure of the CASA program. There has also been a large move of students to middle school at WMS. For some parents, a lack of after-school program spaces at some schools is a factor.

12.4.3 Secretary Treasurer Report (Lisa Vass)

The report is included in the agenda package.

- OHS training is almost complete. Work continues on coordinating training for the Maintenance team; Sewer vaults (contained at three of our schools) are considered confined space, so it will be important for our staff to have that training even though the work is usually done by contractors to reduce liability to YK1; Fall protection training is coming once all those places have been identified.
- Two quotes have been requested for sump pumps for MHS and SJF to address sewage issues.
- Horizon Builders have been contracted to do fencing repairs.
- The flooring contract has been awarded for work at a number of schools.
- The accessibility contract has also been awarded. Each of the six schools will be examined.

- Sewer backups resulted in approximately $40K in repairs.
- The interim finance report will be modified to remove items that will not be completed by year-end because of the unexpected sewer-related repairs. An updated report will be brought to a Finance Committee meeting later in the month.
- Most staff costs are part of collective agreements, and substitute teacher costs are up.
- Inclusive Schooling is estimated to be approximately $2M and is grant funded, so it does not affect the bottom line.
- The next Audit Committee meeting will be held on June 25th. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for June 23rd.
- YK1 has verbally been assured that surplus funds set aside for contracted repairs will not be clawed back.

12.4.3.1 Director of Operations Report (Jordan Martin)

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

13. Standing Committee Reports

13.1 Audit Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Peters)

No meeting has been held.

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

The agenda package for yesterday's COW meeting and the May COW meeting minutes are included in the agenda package.

Comments & responses to questions: none

13.3 Finance Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Brookes)

The report is included in the agenda package.

Comments & responses to questions: none

13.4 Facilities Committee (Chairperson: TBD)

The Committee has not met. Trustees recommend choosing a chair for the committee so that a meeting can be called.

Trustee Wasylciw nominated Trustee Drew. Trustee Shortt seconded the nomination. Trustee Drew accepted the nomination. Committee Chair Drew will set a meeting.

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

The Committee does not have any serious concerns.

13.6 Policy & Governance Committee, Chairperson: Trustee Drew

Committee meeting information is included in the agenda package & was also emailed out.

Motion #: 23/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve Policy 3 - Role of the Trustee as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Snaggs **Withdrawn**

Trustee Wasylciw called a Point of Order because the policy is not in the package. Point was well taken.

Administration is working on a process for reviewing policies.

After some discussion, a Board meeting was scheduled for June 24th at 12:10 PM to approve the policies that must be passed before the summer.

Motion #: 24/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees table Policy 4 - Code of Conduct, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Snaggs **Withdrawn**

Trustee Drew noted that the main policy document has not changed, but an appendix has been added.

Discussion occurred regarding the remedial action provisions of the policy. Some trustees expressed the view that a more restorative approach should be considered. It was also noted that the Education Act clearly outlines the consequences of contraventions of the Code of Conduct.

13.7 Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee, Chairperson Wasylicw

Chairperson Wasylicw reported that the committee had recently focused on the Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards and plans to meet the following week to begin work on an Advocacy Plan.

Discussion included the possibility of hosting a meet-and-greet event in September for prospective trustees. It was also noted that information provided to prospective trustees should be updated to ensure it is current and clearly outlines the expected time commitment associated with serving as a trustee.

Discussion further included the Board workplan, with comments that it is due for a comprehensive review and update.

13.8 USW Board Advisory Committee, Chairperson: Trustee TBD

No meeting has been held.

13.9 Action Items

The Action Item lists were not included in the agenda package. They will be sent out before the next Board meeting. The list will be deferred to the next meeting.

14. Announcements - events calendar attached

Trustee Wasylciw will send an email reminding people to attend award ceremonies to present Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

June 17th, 2026 5:30-8:00 PM	Workplan meeting
June 24, 2026 12:10 PM	Board Meeting - By-Laws Approval
August 18, 2026 6:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting

16. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Chairperson Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

17. Adjournment

Motion #: 25/06-09/25-26

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees, June 9, 2026, Regular Board meeting be adjourned.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 PM

Chairperson Bell Secretary Treasurer Vass