



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

August 18, 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, Terry Brookes
(online) and Tina Drew (online)

Trustee Regrets: Jason Snaggs and Michelle Peters

Administration Present: Shirley Zouboules, Lisa Vass, Landon Kowalzik, Graham Arts,
Anabell Paulson, Dustin Kleiboer and Pat Thagard

Guests present: Umaymah Suhail, Yellowknifer Newspaper

Meeting Chairperson: Barbara Bell

Meeting Minutes by: Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

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

Motion #: 01/08-18/26-27

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 #: 02/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees move out of in-camera at 6:35 PM due to the arrival of Trustee Wasylciw.

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

Motion #: 03/08-18/26-27

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) Board of Trustees move to in-camera at 6:35 PM.

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

Motion #: 04/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees move out of in-camera at 6:59 PM.

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

A brief recess was called.

The Board meeting was called back to order at 7:03 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.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #: 05/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees adopt the August 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt Seconded by: Trustee Brookes See below

Motion #: 06/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees amend the August 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda by postponing item 6 to the next Board meeting.

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

Main motion **05/08-18/26-27**, as amended **Carried**

6. Delegations & Presentations

Deferred to the next Board meeting.

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

7.1. June 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #: 07/08-18/26-27

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

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

No discussion arose from approval of the minutes.

7.2. June 17, 2026 Special Board Meeting

Motion #: 08/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the June 17, 2026, Special Board Meeting minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Wasylciw **Tabled**

Motion #: 09/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees table motion # 08/08-18/26-27 to allow for further review.

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

7.3. June 24, 2026 Board Meeting

Motion #: 10/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the June 24, 2026, Board Meeting minutes, as presented.

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

[Friendly amendment: minutes information and signature section should reflect Meeting Chairperson as Trustee Shortt, as he chaired the meeting]

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

Discussions included draft minutes being posted online as well as if a public communique was drafted regarding the municipal school tax funding. No letter was drafted.

Superintendent Zouboules introduced two new staff members. Dustin Kleiboer as the new Information Technology Officer and Anabelle Paulson as the new Chief Information Officer/Senior Network Administrator.

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 Secretary Treasurer Vass for this meeting.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 2026-2030 Draft Board Workplan (Chairperson Bell)

The Board has been working through the 2022-2026 workplan. Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Administration have been working on the 2026-2030 workplan. Trustees were asked to review the draft and provide feedback as soon as possible.

Trustees asked that a document (not a PDF) be provided to trustees that would allow trustees to provide comments within the document and to have rows numbered for ease of review.

Trustee Drew requested an extension to provide comments, which was granted.

Chairperson Bell will schedule a meeting to review the workplan in detail once feedback is received.

10.2 Superintendent Evaluation (Chairperson Bell)

Motion #: 11/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the completion of the annual Superintendent/CEO evaluation and the identified growth goals for 2026-2027.

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

Superintendent/CEO Zouboules and everyone involved were thanked for the work done during the evaluation.

Trustees asked that Chairperson Bell share copies of the final Superintendent & Board evaluation documents.

11. New Business

11.1 Appointment of Returning Officer for Joint Elections (Secretary Treasurer Vass)

Secretary Treasurer Vass reviewed the process. The City has appointed Eve Erasmus.

Motion #: 12/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees appoint Eve Erasmus as Returning Officer for the 2026 School Board and Municipal Election.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw

Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

A question was raised regarding the budget for the election. Secretary Treasurer Vass indicated the budget agreed to will see each of the DEAs paying 20% and the City will pay the remaining 60%.

11.2 Standing Committee on Social Development - Inclusive Schooling Review (Chairperson Bell)

Motion #: 13/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the attached letter and authorize the Board Chair to submit it on behalf of Yellowknife Education District No. 1

Moved by: Trustee Brookes

Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

Trustees discussed the content of the letter, including the level of detail provided. Administration noted that the figures in the letter would be reviewed again before it is sent and updated where needed. Trustees agreed that the Standing Committee on Social Development should be provided with sufficient information to support informed recommendations and to understand the issues YK1 is addressing.

11.3 Approval of the Draft Mandate Review (Superintendent Zouboules)

Superintendent Zouboules noted that the Mandate Review is a required reporting set in place by the Auditor General's report 10 years ago. There are some pieces that Education Services needs to complete now that they are back from the summer break. The final document will be submitted once complete.

Motion #: 14/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the draft Mandate Review as presented by Superintendent Zouboules.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes

Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Withdrawn

It was noted that the Mandate Review is a good reminder about what the Board does to ensure we are in compliance with legislation. The template for the review was received late in the spring.

Some trustees noted that the report is extensive and also suggested reducing some of the duplication.

Motion 15/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees table motion 14/08-18/26-27.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw

Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Withdrawn

The Governance section of the Mandate Review will be sent to trustees for comments.

Motion 16/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees withdraw motion 14/08-18/26-27.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw

Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

Motion 17/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees withdraw motion 15/08-18/26-27.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes

Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

11.4 Education Bodies - BIP and School Districts (Chairperson Bell)

Trustees suggested that BIP should be added to the list of items to discuss with the Minister with regard to GNWT overreach.

11.5 *Approve Draft of Annual Report (Assistant Superintendent Arts)*

Administration reviewed the current draft and noted that a final version will be presented at the September Board meeting.

Trustees discussed including highlights in the September cover sheet to identify any items of note for the Board's awareness and future work.

Trustees also discussed receiving the final draft of the document in advance of the Board meeting agenda package to allow additional time for review.

12. Reports

12.1. Chairperson's Report (Chairperson Bell)

No report is included in the agenda package.

12.2. Trustee Reports

12.2.1. Trustee Brookes

The report is included in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

12.3 Canadian School Board Association Report (Trustee Brookes)

The report is in the agenda package.

Trustee Brooks noted that CSBA is currently not in a good financial position and they are working to restructure and refocus. He also noted that the Ontario government has legislated that the Ontario School Boards Association is not permitted to be part of an external organization, which has impacted the CSBA's finances. Future CSBA meetings will be held online only.

12.4 Superintendent Report (Superintendent Zouboules)

The report is included in the package.

A lot of time has been spent preparing the Mandate Review. Leadership development work was also done. Sessions will be held in the future with Adelee Penner. District office is in the process of school start preparations and finalizing preparations for next week's professional development. A lot of work has gone into preparing the Year-in-Review document. It was also noted that, sadly, Executive Assistant Lagomasino is no longer with YK1.

The Year-in-Review document will be shared with trustees who are asked to provide comments as soon as possible.

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

The report is included in the package. Additional information provided:

- Homeschool Admin procedures have been completed, provided to homeschool families and published.
- An agreement has been signed for an application to assist with the processes for sub booking and staff absences.
- The annual report on ATIPP requests has been compiled and submitted.

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

The report is included in the package.

- Orientation for new staff will take place next week.
- Student number projections were reviewed. This included a potential of 70 new students.
- Three staff positions still need to be filled.
- There have been some late resignations this year.
- Administration is confident that they will be ready to go next week.
- There were 210 people on the sub list last year.

It was suggested that the Facilities Committee look at enrollment capacity of each school and plan for the future.

It was noted that the Junior Kindergarten numbers projected for École Îtî'ô is down by 28 students this year and NJ Macpherson School is down as well. It is nice to see Range Lake North School has an increase.

It was noted that the reality is that YK1 needs more funding.

12.4.3 Secretary Treasurer Report (Lisa Vass)

The report is included in the package.

- OHS was not able to coordinate summer training for maintenance staff. It will be done this fall.
- Work on the election has begun.
- Most maintenance projects should be done by the end of the summer.
- Some project funds will be carried over to this fiscal year
- An Audit Committee meeting will be scheduled for Sept 10th
- A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled for Sept 29th.
- The bussing contract has been extended by 1 year. We will still have an option to renew for 2 more years.

13. Standing Committee Reports

13.1 Audit Committee

The Committee will be meeting on September 10, 2026.

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

The June COW meeting minutes are included in the agenda package.

Comments & responses to questions: none

13.3 Finance Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Brookes)

There have been no meetings as yet. A late September meeting will allow for more information to be available related to the start of the school year.

Comments & responses to questions: none

13.4 Facilities Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Drew)

The Committee has not met.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

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

The Committee has not met.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

13.6 Policy & Governance Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Drew)

The Committee has not met.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

13.7 Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee (Chairperson: Wasylciw)

The Committee has not met.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

13.8 USW Board Advisory Committee (Chairperson: Trustee TBD)

The Committee has not met.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

13.9 No item on the agenda.

13.10 Action Items

The Action Item lists are included in the agenda package.

Trustees discussed the letter to the Standing Committee on Social Development, including the current number of students requiring Education Assistant support. Administration noted that 99 students have identified needs requiring EA support; however, current staffing levels do not allow for one-to-one support for each student. Administration further noted that providing one-to-one EA support for all 99 students would require an estimated \$10 million in additional funding.

Motion 18/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees write a letter when the operational report is submitted to include information on the funding shortfall required to have enough EAs for all the students that need them.

Moved by: Trustee Drew

Seconded by: Trustee Wasylciw

Carried

Motion 19/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees rescind motion 09/06-24/25-26.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

Committee Chairs are asked to review the Committee Action Item list and indicate which items have been completed at the next Board meeting.

14. Announcements - no events calendar attached

First day of school is August 27th. Open House dates to be announced.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

September 14, 2026	12:10 PM	COW Meeting
September 15, 2026	6:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting - in camera
September 15, 2026	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting

16. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Chairperson Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

17. Adjournment

Motion #: 20/08-18/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees, August 18, 2026, Regular Board meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt Seconded by: Trustee Brookes

Carried

The meeting adjourned at **8:27** PM

Chairperson Bell

Secretary Treasurer Vass