



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

September 15, 2026 – 6:30 PM
In-person and online via Google Meet
(in camera 6:30 - 7:00 PM)

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

Trustee Regrets: Barbara Bell

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

Guests present: Fred Deschenes, CPA, CA from Crowe MacKay LLP

Meeting Chairperson: Allan Shortt

Meeting Minutes by: Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 PM.

Six (6) Trustees were present at the start of the meeting. Quorum was met.

Motion #: 01/09-15/26-27

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) Board of Trustees move to in-camera at 6:39 PM.

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

Motion #: 02/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees move out of in-camera at 6:44 PM.

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

A brief recess was called.

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Shortt 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 Shortt extended a welcome to all attendees.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion #: 03/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees adopt the September 15, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

[Friendly amendment: move item 11.1 Auditor's presentation moved up in the proceedings to occur after item 5. Adoption of the Agenda]

11. New Business

11.1 Approval of Audit (Secretary Treasurer Vass)

Fred Deschenes, CPA, CA of Crowe MacKay LLP presented the 2026 Financial Statements. The presentation is included in the agenda package.

Discussion included:

The Trustees requested that the record reflect a virtually nil deficit, noting that expenditures were strictly aligned with the GNWT's directive.

The Trustees raised an inquiry regarding the creation of an internal reserve from the Nordic Arms sale proceeds. Administration provided an overview of the constraints preventing the establishment of this reserve.

Motion #: 04/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees accept the audit report as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Peters Seconded by: Trustee Brookes

Carried

Audit Committee Chair Peters thanked Administration, the Committee members and the auditor for their work. She suggested the recommendations made by the auditor should be tracked and followed up on.

Trustees noted that the Board was set a difficult task with the loss of Jordan's Principle funding, but despite the challenges, an excellent audit result was completed.

Trustees suggested the inclusion of a note reflecting that all of the surplus was used, along with the reason for the requirement to do so being to comply with a GNWT directive rather than a Board decision.

Motion #: 05/09-15/26-27

I move that the Board requests that the auditors update the audit document on pg 15 where "The reduction reflects the annual operating deficit together with the Interim Support Assistants contribution agreement, which required YK1 to apply \$277,040 of its own operating fund to ISA costs before drawing on the contribution." to reflect that YK1 was required to spend any remaining operating fund surplus amount, which was \$277,040.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: none

Motion did not proceed

Trustees suggested the information be reflected in the meeting minutes.

6. Delegations & Presentations

None.

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

7.1. June 17, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #: 06/09-15/26-27

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

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Tabled

[Friendly amendment: amend the minutes to show six trustees present at the start of the meeting.]

Motion #: 07/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees table motion # 06/09-15/26-27 to allow for further review and the addition of the discussion around the percentages quoted by ECE.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

7.2. August 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #: 08/09-15/26-27

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

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Wasylciw

Carried

[Friendly amendment to correct spelling of Trustee Wasylciw's name & correct motion numbers.]

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1 Trustees asked that a copy of the finalized Superintendent evaluation be shared with them.

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 City Council - Land Acknowledgement (Chairperson Shortt)

Motion #: 09/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees refer this item to a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting for further discussion.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

10.2 Approval of Workplan 2026 - 2030 (Chairperson Shortt)

Trustees noted that the plan requires further updates and that it is a working draft for the new Board of Trustees to review and adopt.

Motion #: 10/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees refer the workplan to a COW meeting for further review and discussion.

Moved by: Trustee Drew

Seconded by: Trustee Wasylciw

Carried

Chairperson Shortt asked trustees to review the current version of the workplan and provide their comments to Chairperson Bell as soon as possible. Trustees requested notes be added regarding changes made for comparison purposes.

10.3 Final Approval of Sir John International Travel (Superintendent Zouboules)

Motion #: 11/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees provide final approval for the École Sir John Franklin High School international trip, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: TrusteeBrookes

Carried

Trustees asked about WSCC coverage for staff going on trips and when it would start. Administration advised that this was asked about a couple of years ago, and we were advised that they would be covered. Administration to look into coverage again to ensure coverage has not changed.

Motion #: 12/09-15/26-27

I move that the Board of Trustees ask the Superintendent to contact the Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding the "Approval Request for Duty Travel Outside of Canada" form to change the Approvals block to include the Education Body Chair and Minister rather than the Superintendent, as Superintendents do not report to the Minister.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: TrusteeBrookes

Carried

11. New Business

11.1 Approval of Audit (Secretary Treasurer Vass)

This item was moved up in the agenda order, following item 5, to facilitate the auditor's departure after his presentation.

11.2 International Travel PD Request (Superintendent Zouboules)

Motion #: 13/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve international travel for professional development by Darryl Mitchener.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

Trustees inquired if there are no opportunities in Canada that could fulfill the teachers' professional development (PD) needs and if it is wise for the Board to approve staff going to the US given the current political climate. It was noted that the staff member is covering the cost of the trip with their own PD funds. Trustees like that the staff member will attend the PD and then share it with both students and staff.

11.3 Approval of the Mandate Review (Superintendent Zouboules)

Superintendent Zouboules presented the Mandate Review. Suggestions or comments received were considered and then incorporated as much as possible. The document must be submitted to the GNWT Department of Finance this evening. Superintendent Zouboules captured the suggested amendments.

Motion #: 14/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the Mandate Review presented by Superintendent Zouboules, with the amendments as noted.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

[amendments related to typos in the document]

Trustees requested that the Board be informed if the response from the Department of Finance regarding the Mandate Review reflects an adversarial tone, as has been experienced in the past. It was also requested that the final version of the Mandate Review be included in a future agenda package as a record of the final document.

11.4 Approval of Annual Report (Assistant Superintendent Arts)

The report template was not received until mid-August, but the deadline for submission remains the end of September. The changes to the report were reviewed.

The report must be approved by the Board as it is part of their fiduciary responsibility. Trustees made a number of edit suggestions, including that the report should accurately reflect the percentage decrease in inclusive schooling funding. Administration indicated that a commentary on the challenges the district is facing would be included. Trustees noted that there is no information about homeschooling in the report. Administration indicated that the template does not include a section requesting information about homeschooling.

Trustees suggested highlighting the federal food funding program to parents and requested a report about the food funding program.

Trustees with more suggestions for the Annual Report were asked to email them to Assistant Superintendent Arts at their earliest convenience.

Motion #: 15/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees approve the Annual Report, with edits as discussed, where possible, so that the report can be submitted to meet the ECE timeline.

12. Reports

12.1. Chairperson's Report (Board Chairperson Bell)

No report is included in the agenda package.

Trustees requested that correspondence be discussed during every Board meeting. This was brought up as a result of a letter from the Federal Minister that the Board needs to discuss and respond to. Trustees asked that the letter be included in the October board meeting agenda. Trustees think the Board needs to send a response to the letter, cc'ing the territorial minister, requesting that our Indigenous student population being much higher than in other jurisdictions, should be considered in funding decisions. - This will be in the hands of the new board as there isn't enough time for the current board to review. The superintendent will ensure it is in the action items.

12.2. Trustee Reports

No trustee reports were received.

12.3 Canadian School Board Association Report (Trustee Brookes)

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

The next meeting will be held October 5-7, 2026. Trustee Brookes plans to attend virtually. He has not yet received an agenda for the meeting but feels the main topic will be the CSBA's financial situation. Trustees noted that in the past the CSBA met with MPs at the October meeting. The MP meeting event (aka "Hill Days") has been postponed to next spring.

12.4 Superintendent Report (Superintendent Zouboules)

The report is included in the package.

The new school year start-up was great. Staff received a lot of positive feedback.

Superintendent Zouboules gave an overview of Dr. Gina Cherkowski's visit to Yellowknife, what Dr. Cherkowski of the Werklund Centre is working on and the potential for more information for the district around social-emotional wellness.

In response to a question about lockdown procedures, Superintendent Zouboules noted that there are Administrative Procedures on lockdowns which must be included per our Safe & Caring Schools documents, which are shared widely. Hold & secure and lockdowns are practiced throughout the school year as required.

Administration noted that recent feedback from an expert indicated that our procedures are very good.

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

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

A Foundation Skills Assessment report will be available in March. Work is ongoing.

The Laurier University project is working to create sustainable food sources that can be carried forward by students and staff.

The wellness mentor program has been well received. Outside contractors are not necessarily used. We do not provide counselling services, but psychoeducational (Ed Psych) assessments are contracted out. YK1 currently does approximately 10 Ed Psych assessments annually, but there could potentially be many more needed given our student population, which is over 2,000 students. Strategies for inclusive schooling were also discussed.

12.4.2 Assist. Supt. of Human Resources & Learning Report (Landon Kowalzik)

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

Enrolment numbers in the package are a bit high due to expected start-of-year fluctuations at the high school.

It is normal to have a low number of active subs at the start of the school year.

Trustees liked getting numbers showing the % of students in the district at each school. This is great information for planning purposes. It was noted that enrolment numbers at RLN are still low. The Board asked to be kept informed on what is being done to improve enrolment at RLN.

It was also noted that JK/K registrations appear to be down this year. Assistant Superintendent Kowalzik indicated that the enrollment this year is actually more in line with the years before last year. The high enrolment at École Itt'ò last year was an anomaly. Currently, they have 71 JK/K students, but an average of about 60 is the norm. Lack of after-school space at NJM has played a role in decreased numbers there. Numbers for this year are slightly better than the year before last.

École Itt'ò's is almost at capacity with an enrolment of 380. Their capacity is 381. Trustees suggested moving the Montessori CASA from Itt'ò to RLN, which might help with RLN's enrolment.

A certified sub is currently filling the one vacant teacher position and students are receiving support.

Trustees requested that information about staff retention be made available for the next board meeting. Trustees asked that the information include pre- and post-COVID data.

12.4.3 Secretary Treasurer Report (Lisa Vass)

The report is included in the package. No additional information was provided.

Discussion included:

It was noted that the maintenance part of the report provides information about facilities.

The rental of École Itł'ə to the community has not begun. The building has not been turned over to YK1 yet, and work continues to resolve the security gate issue.

Secretary Treasurer Vass indicated that we will be in full compliance with WSCC requirements sometime next year, and she reviewed what is being done to work towards that. WSCC is aware of and approves the steps YK1 is taking to become compliant.

A bussing report will be provided at the October Board meeting.

13. Standing Committee Reports

13.1 Audit Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Peters)

The Committee met on September 10, 2026.

Committee Chairperson Peters noted that the work of the Audit Committee is now concluded and she thanked all those involved with the audit process.

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

Yesterday's COW meeting was the first of the 2026-2027 school year.

Comments & responses to questions: none

13.3 Finance Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Brookes)

A meeting is scheduled for September 29th.

Comments & responses to questions: none

13.4 Facilities Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Drew)

The Committee has not met and will likely not meet before the Board's term is done.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

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

The Committee has not met. There may be a meeting on Sept. 29th.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

13.6 Policy & Governance Committee (Chairperson: Trustee Drew)

The Committee did not meet during the summer.

Comments & responses to questions: none.

13.7 Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee (Chairperson: Wasylciw)

The Committee will meet tomorrow.

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 Action Items

The Action Item lists are included in the agenda package.

The presentation at yesterday's COW was done at the Trustees' request. Assistant Superintendent Arts reviewed the history behind the information provided.

Clarification was provided indicating that the ECE report template does not speak to outcomes. The report presented at the COW speaks to outcomes.

Trustees indicated a preference for reviewing baseline and year-end data to review annual improvements. Assistant Superintendent Arts noted that the December 2025 Board Information Session addressed this through a governance lens focused on systemic planning.

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 - an events calendar included in the agenda package.

No additional information provided.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

October 13, 2026	12:10 PM	COW Meeting
October 13, 2026	6:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting - in camera
October 13, 2026	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting

16. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Chairperson Shortt thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

17. Adjournment

Motion #: 16/09-15/26-27

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees, September 15, 2026, Regular Board meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes

Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM

Meeting Chairperson - Trustee Shortt

Secretary Treasurer Vass