



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

May 13, 2025 – 6:30 PM

In-person and online via Google Meet

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

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

Trustee regrets: none

Administration Present: Shirley Zouboules, Lisa Vass, Jordan Martin,
Pat Thagard and Annie Lagomasino

Regrets: Landon Kowalzik and Graham Arts

Guests: none

Meeting Chairperson: David Wasylciw

Meeting Minutes by: Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM. Seven (7) Trustees were present.
Quorum was met.

Motion #: 01/05-13/24-25

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

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

Motion #: 02/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees move out of in camera at 7:04 PM.

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

Board meeting called back to order at 7:10 PM

2. Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, play, 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 Wasylciw welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their contributions to another successful YK1 presence at the Chamber of Commerce Trade Show. Of note, Trustee Brookes' balloons were a hit again this year.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Drew noted that she, Trustee Peters and Trustee Bell should not be involved in the vote for the motion regarding the additional pay for trustees that are part of the Negotiations Committee because of their current involvement on the Committee.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #: 03/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adopt the May 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting agenda, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Tina Seconded by: Trustee Terry

Carried

6. Delegations & Presentations

6.1. Recognition of Mildred Wilke, former YK1 Trustee

The recent passing of former YK1 Trustee Mildred Wilke was acknowledged. Long-time Trustees Shortt and Brookes recognized her positive approach and how she brought life to the YK1 Board and always encouraged parents to attend Board meetings. Trustees also recognized that Trustee Wilke was the driving force behind moving the original YK1 log cabin school to its current location beside the YK1 District Office.

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

7.1. April 8, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting

Motion #: 04/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the April 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

7.2. April 15, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting (Education)

Motion #: 05/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the April 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting (Education) minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

7.3. April 28, 2025 - Special Board Meeting

Motion #: 06/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the April 28, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes, as amended.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

(amendment: Trustees Shortt had requested to have his vote against motion 04/04-28/24-25 recorded. Additionally, Trustee Brookes had intended to have his vote recorded as well.)

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. Business Arising

none

8.2. Action Items

Motion #: 07/05-13/24-25

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

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

9. Trustee Statements

Per Bylaws: 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.

No statements were received.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1. Update on École William McDonald Middle School (WMS)/École Allain St.Cyr (EASC) Schools' Parking

Administration met with CFSTNO and YCS superintendents to observe the current flow of traffic. This resulted in the following:

- YK1 and CFSTNO to track down a traffic study done for WMS/EASC parking in the past, and
- Research what City criteria for parking is

Administration noted that the city wants the new exit blocked off because only the original entrance and exit must remain.

Trustees suggest asking the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) to do traffic studies for both WMS/EASC and, if required, at Iṭṭ'ò.

Trustees think more parents are dropping their children off now than was the case in the past.

Trustees requested ongoing updates as this item progresses.

11. New Business

11.1. Property Tax Requisition

Motion #: 08/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees rescind the previously passed motion 02/04-28/24-25 and amend the previously requisitioned education property tax amount from \$8,803,221 to \$8,038,923 as part of ensuring that there is a consistent education property tax rate for all residents.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

Further discussions with YCS resulted in a recommendation to request a reduced increase to the education property tax, and that spreading the funds required to fully fund the program over future years in an effort to reduce the socio-economic impacts on Yellowknife residents.

Trustees noted the need for the YK1 Board of Trustees to work to ensure YK1 is funded to 100% for the students and their success. YK1 has not requested

an increase in the education property tax for many years, increased costs are making the request necessary. There were concerns that this smaller increase would leave programs underfunded for the next school year and draw down from accumulated surplus at a rapid pace.

Chairperson Wasylciw thanked the City for accommodating the change in our request.

11.2. YK1 School Reviews

Abbreviated reports for each school are in the package. The process was reviewed. Based on the full reports, schools have developed their school improvement plans. Trustees asked to have School Improvement Plans (SIPs) shared at a future Board meeting and would like schools to provide suggestions of how the Board can support the SIPs. Trustees feel the reports will give school administrators and staff valuable information to work with.

The YK1 Board wants to ensure staff and students are supported in their goals and looks forward to a check-in in the fall as SIPs are implemented.

11.3. International PD Requests

11.3.1. US travel in July

Motion #: 09/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the international travel to the United States for professional development.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Brookes

Carried

Administration noted that there is no cost to the District. The staff member is using their own professional Development (PD) funds.

11.3.2. Italy in the fall

Motion #: 10/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the international travel to the Europe for professional development.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Brookes

Carried

Administration noted that the organizers of the PD will cover the costs for the staff member to attend as the current representative for the NWT on the Canadian School Principals' Association.

Trustees congratulated Principal McInnis for being selected to attend.

Trustees requested that in the future the title for this item be changed to *International Travel Requests* for clarity.

11.4. Draft 2025-2026 Operational Plan

The Draft 2025-2026 Operating Plan is included in the package. It will be submitted to ECE for feedback. Any changes requested, if necessary will be made, and then it will be resubmitted with the budget approved by the Board.

Administration expects a few changes concerning the mental health and wellness program, and the use of the Federal food funding. Administration also expects that next year, questions specific to the JK to Grade 3 curriculum renewal will be included as part of the Operating Plan template provided by ECE.

Motion #: 11/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adopt the draft 2025-2026 Operational Plan as presented for discussion, with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and further review.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

11.5. Committee Transition

Deferred to June meeting.

11.6. Trustee Full Day Commitment

This topic was discussed at the May 12th COW. The following two motions were made:

Motion #: 12/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees Policy & Governance Committee review the Trustee honorarium structure with respect to full-day commitments of Trustees.

Moved by: Trustee Peters Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

Trustees noted the importance of reviewing existing practices and ensuring Trustee positions are accessible.

Motion #: 13/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the payment of an additional honorarium, based on the substitute teacher rate, be paid to Trustees on the Negotiations Committee for full day commitments where they are not able to claim pay from their employer for the 2025 YK1-NWTTA negotiations process, and they submit a claim for the time, after the motion is approved.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

Trustees Drew and Peters recused themselves from the discussion and vote on the motion.

11.7. Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards

Motion #: 14/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the list of Indigenous student nominations for the Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards that were reviewed by the Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

Trustees agreed that the criteria for the award should be reviewed regularly and noted that the recognition is intended to ensure more Indigenous students feel comfortable with embracing their culture. It was also noted that the recognition needs to be viewed through the lens of reconciliation.

Trustees would encourage more Elders and Knowledge keepers be involved in

the selection process. Each student can only be recognized once per grade category.

Trustees applaud all the students recognized.

11.8. Achievement Results (deferred to June)

12. Reports

12.1. Chairperson's Report

The report in the package along with letters to federal candidates. A note of congratulations was also sent to MP elect Rebecca Alty.

Chairperson Wasylciw congratulated MP on her appointment today as Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.

Administration proudly noted that MP Alty is a former YK1 student.

12.2. Standing Committee Reports

12.2.1. Finance & Facilities Committee

Three meetings have been held since the last Board meetings and more are scheduled in the weeks to come as part of the budget process.

12.2.2. Policy & Governance Committee

The Committee continues to work on finalizing Policy 5. What the committee has will be consolidated and brought forward at a future meeting.

12.2.3. Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee

The report is included in the agenda package, along with minutes from last committee meeting. The committee will be discussing public engagement at the upcoming meeting on Friday.

Trustees Peters, Shortt and Bell attended the Community Engagement luncheon, which was very well received. It was a very energizing, well-received event. Attendees were given small YK1 gifts. Canadian Tire and Independent were represented and spoke positively of YK1 students. Trustee was very proud of the representations by YK1 school administration.

12.2.4. Audit Committee

The Committee will not have another meeting until June.

12.2.5. Committee of the Whole

The report is included in the agenda package.

12.2.6. NWTTA Teacher-Board Committee

No meeting

12.2.7. USW-Board Advisory Committee

No meeting.

12.3. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

12.3.1. Negotiations Committee

Negotiations are on going. The next meeting will be held in June.

12.4. Superintendents Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Administration also noted that Sir Wilfrid Laurier students who spent time in YK1 schools were taken for dinner. The students shared many positive comments about their placement. The students had the option to go anywhere in the world, and they chose Yellowknife. Many of them will be looking for placements here when they complete their degree.

Action: Trustees suggested that the Board send a letter of thanks to Jodi Lee-Lewis and Angela Martin (Action item) for the education information they presented last month.

12.4.1. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Trustee questions resulted in the following responses:

- Bussing continues to be an issue because the testing of drivers is an issue. Transdev has had to send drivers to Hay River to be tested.

Motion #: 15/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees write a letter to the Ministers of Infrastructure and Education, Culture and Employment regarding the challenges of bus driver testing in Yellowknife.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

Trustees suggested asking the other two school boards to also write letters.

Trustees congratulated Jean-Marie Mariez and Jeff McConomy on the awards they recently received from Canadian Parents for French (CPF). These kinds of awards speak to the calibre of YK1 staff.

Administration talked about how creative ways are being found to provide PD to staff across the district. Trustees applauded the creation of the Professional Development (PD) committee.

In a response to a question about wellness it was indicated that on average we have a 4% staff absentee rate due to medical, across the district.

12.4.2. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Learning Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

12.4.3. Secretary Treasurer Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Finance continues to work on payroll issues, which includes streamlining the substitute payment process. There may be a need for a Special Meeting in late June to approve the budget. As the team works through a full year of finance, more processes will be streamlined.

The Ratepayers Meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

12.4.3.1. Director of Operations Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Trustees requested regular updates on the state of projects to ensure they are being completed in a timely manner.

Designing a security gate solution for École Îtł'ò is ongoing.

12.5. Trustee Reports

12.5.1. Trustee Brookes' report included in the agenda package.

12.5.2. Trustee Peters' report included in the agenda package.

12.6. Trustee PAC Meeting Reports

12.6.1. École Îtł'ò

Trustee Peters will attend the PAC tomorrow rather than the Ratepayers Meeting.

12.6.2. Mildred Hall School

Trustee Bell attended the last meeting.

12.6.3. N.J. Macpherson School

No information to share.

12.6.4. Range Lake North School

The last meeting was on April 10th. The main topic of discussion was Family Fun Night, which was cancelled for this year due to a lack of volunteers. The school may hold smaller fundraising events.

12.6.5. École Sir John Franklin High School

Trustee Wasylciw attended the April PAC on behalf of Trustee Shortt. Trustee Shortt to attend the May PAC.

12.6.6. École William McDonald Middle School

Trustee Drew provided the updated May date for the WMS PAC meeting.

13. Announcements - events calendar attached

Trustee Wasylciw noted that Trustees lunch with student councils are scheduled in the coming weeks. Information will sent to Trustees.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

May 20, 2025	6:00 PM	Board Meeting (Education)
June 16, 2025	12:10 PM	Committee of the Whole
June 17, 2025	6:30 PM	Executive Session (In camera)
June 17, 2025	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting

15. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Chairperson Wasylciw thanked everyone for attending and suggested everyone read through the draft budget and Operational Plan and provide administration with any questions or comments.

16. Adjournment

Motion #: 16/05-13/24-25

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adjourn the May 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM

Chairperson Wasylciw

Secretary Treasurer Vass