PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SD #58 YELLOWSTONE COUNTY
BILLINGS, MT 59106

September 16th, 2026

Chair John Boeder called a regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:00p.m. on September 16, 2026. The meeting was held in the Board conference room.

PRESENT: John Boeder, Jerry Nash and Eric Spelhaug were present. Superintendent Keith Tresch, Dwight Von Schriltz, and Business Manager/Clerk Laurie Hickethier were present.

GUESTS: Lorelei Rosales was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS/ CORRESPONDENCE None

APPROVE ADDITION None

NEW BUSINESS **Items for Action**

Approve Minutes for August, 2026

A motion was made by John Boeder, seconded by Eric Spelhaug to approve August 2026, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Bills for August 2026

A motion was made by John Boeder, seconded by Eric Spelhaug to approve the bills for August 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

Update 26-27 School Calendar PIR day – changed from Sept 21 to Sept 28

A motion was made by John Boeder, seconded by Eric Spelhaug to approve the updated 26-27 School Calendar. The calendar was updated because the ACE PIR Day was moved from Sept 21st to Sept 28. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Option C Tuition Rate 26-27

Supt. Tresch stated that YA plans to keep the same tuition rate for YA Day School from 25-26 school year. The 25-26 school year

was $125 per day for all day school students. However, YA has not heard back from OPI yet in regard to the tuition rates allowed.

Supt. Tresch stated that the plan may be for the 27-28 to increase the daily rate to $135 per day.

A motion was made by John Boeder, seconded by Eric Spelhaug to approve the 26-27 Option C tuition rate as long as the rate falls within the OPI guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve 26-27 LCSW Supervision Stipend - $500 per semester – Mitch Burns

A motion was made by John Boeder, seconded by Eric Spelhaug to approve a $500 per semester LCSW Supervision Stipend for Mitch Burns. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Updates 2410 – High School Graduation Requirements and 2410P – High School Graduation Procedure

Supt. Tresch presented the board with the following changes to Policy 2410 – High School Graduation Requirements:

Adding: The District's graduation requirements will be the minimum requirements established by the Montana Board of Public Education in ARM 10.55.904 and 10.55.905.

Adding: To graduate from Yellowstone Academy, a student must have satisfactorily completed the last quarter prior to graduation as a Yellowstone Academy student. Unusual exceptions to this requirement will be considered by the Superintendent. A student may graduate early after completing the seventh regular semester of high school if the student has met the state graduation requirements. The Superintendent will recommend eligible students to the Board for approval.

Removing: A student, due to the nature of the individualized and small group instruction, may be given credit for a course satisfactorily completed in a period of time shorter or longer than normally required, provided full content of the course is met.

The Board asked to add "excluding summer sessions" to the seventh regular regular semesters of education.

A motion was made by John Boeder, seconded by Eric Spelhaug to approve the 2410 High School Graduation Requirements policy with the above recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

Supt. Tresch presented the board with the following changes to Policy 2410P – High School Graduation Procedure:

Publication of Graduation Requirements

The District will publish the current Montana graduation requirements in this policy.

Credits

Yellowstone Academy has adopted the Montana graduation requirements. A student must earn 20 units of credit and meet the applicable content and performance standards. Students may demonstrate achievement through a flexible system of pupil-centered learning. The following 13 units must be included within the 20-unit total:

Program area	Required units
English language arts	4
Mathematics	2
Social studies, including 1/2 unit of Civics or Government	2
Science	2
Health and physical education	1
Arts	1
Career and technical education	1

A student must also complete one-half unit of economics or financial literacy within the required social studies, mathematics, or career and technical education units. The remaining seven units may consist of District-approved courses or learning experiences that satisfy the District's curriculum and assessment requirements.

A student with a disabling condition will satisfy those competency requirements incorporated into the individualized education program (IEP). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated in the IEP will serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

Waiver of Requirement

Graduation requirements generally will not be waived. The Board may waive a specific course requirement based on an individual student's needs and performance level. A request will be considered in consultation with the student's parent or guardian and may take into account the student's age, maturity, interests, and aspirations.

Alternative Programs

A student may earn credit for a course completed in a period shorter or longer than normally required when the student demonstrates equivalent proficiency or completes an equivalent course meeting the District's curriculum and assessment requirements aligned with applicable content standards.

With prior District approval, graduation credit may be awarded for learning completed through accredited or otherwise approved programs, including summer school, postsecondary courses, correspondence or distance learning, adult education, work study, supervised work-based learning, experiential learning, custom-designed courses, and course challenges. Credit for work experience may be awarded only when the experience is part of a school-supervised program.

The District will accept units of credit earned in a Montana high school accredited by the Board of Public Education and other credits approved by the District that appear on an official transcript. All courses attempted at Yellowstone Academy and all accepted transfer credits will be recorded on the students' transcript. All grades, including failures and repeated courses, will remain on the transcript. Credit will be awarded only once for a repeated course.

Early Graduation

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to recommend to the Board for early graduation a student who has completed the Montana graduation requirements adopted by Yellowstone Academy in fewer than eight semesters. A student is not eligible for early graduation until completing the seventh regular semester of high school, excluding summer semesters. Board approval is required before a diploma is awarded.

Educational Disruption

If an enrolled high school student who has experienced an educational disruption meets the minimum high school credit requirement established by the Montana Board of Public Education but will not meet a higher credit requirement established by the Board, the District will award the student a diploma as required by section 20-7-1330, MCA. The District may distinguish the diploma in a reasonable manner from other diplomas issued under this procedure.

For purposes of this procedure, "educational disruption" means a disruption experienced during grade nine through twelve caused by homelessness, involvement in the child welfare system or juvenile justice system, a medical or mental health crisis, or another event the Board considers a qualifying educational disruption.

Legal References

Sections 20-5-101, 20-5-201, 20-7-1330, and 20-9-313, MCA
ARM 10.55.603, 10.55.805, 10.55.904, 10.55.905, and 10.55.906
ARM 10.16.3345
34 C.F.R. sections 300.102, 300.305, and 300.503

A motion was made by John Boeder, seconded by Eric Spelhaug to approve the 2410P High School Graduation Procedure policy with the above recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve New Hires

Supt. Tresch presented the following new hires to the board:

1. Evelyn Nelson – Para
2. Kyra Wulff – Teacher Science
3. Zoe Larson – Para

John Boeder motioned to approve the new hires. Second to the motion was Eric Spelhaug. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Resignations

Supt. Tresch presented the following resignation to the board:

1. Science Teacher – Timothy Bartholomew as of Sept 11, 2026

John Boeder motioned to approve the resignation. Second to the motion was Eric Spelhaug. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Report

Supt. Tresch did not have a report to the board.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Chair John Boeder called to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

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John Boeder, Board Chair Laurie Hickethier, Clerk