



York School Committee Meeting - Minutes

A regular meeting for the York School Committee was held in the:

York Public Library

on

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Marie Evans
Chair Julie Kelbert
Meg Martinson
Rick Clark
Darryk Kelly

Committee Members Absent:

1.0 Meeting Called to order

- 1.1 Chair Julie Kelbert welcomed the audience and called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
Chair Julie Kelbert lead the Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.2 Marie Evans read the land acknowledgment.

York is located on the land of the Pennacook and Abenaki Peoples of the Wabanaki Confederacy, who have ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this land. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and the people who have stewarded it through the generations, and we recognize York's responsibility to maintain and protect these homelands for future generations.

- 1.3 Chair Julie Kelbert asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda

Superintendent Doak informed the Committee that there was one adjustment:

Addition of first read of policy 2025-26 YSC draft IKF - Graduation Requirements to New Business: Section 8.3.

2.0 Approval of the Consent Agenda

[April 1, 2026](#)

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0

Seconded by: Marie Evans

In Favor

Discussion Needed: No

3.0 Communications

Chair Julie Kelbert Announced the communications for the upcoming meeting dates and events.

- Thursday April 16th: YHS Building Tour (Sign ups on the YSD website)
- Friday April 17th: No School - Parent Teacher Conference day
- Monday April 20th - Friday the 24th: April Vacation

4.0 Correspondence, Presentations, or Recognition

4.1 Recognition of the YMS & YHS Jazz Ensembles for their accomplishments at the recent State Jazz Festivals

Jimi Neel, YMS Band Director, presented the YMS and YHS Jazz Ensembles to the Committee and shared highlights from their recent experience at the State Jazz Festivals, including recognizing several individual students who earned high honors at the competition. Mr. Neel praised the students for the dedication and hard work they demonstrated throughout the season. Several students also addressed the Committee to speak about their personal experiences at the festival and the jazz program in general, noting the positive impact it has had on their lives.

5.0 Approval of the Financials

5.1 Business Administrator's Report presented by:

Rick Kusturin

5.1.1 Approval of Bills and Payroll

AP on	04/02/2026	In the amount of:	\$1,018,120.61
PR on	04/09/2026	In the amount of:	\$1,114,475.72
Total AP & PR in the amount of:			\$2,132,596.33

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

5.2.2 Acceptance of Donations

\$10,000 donation from the Sayward Family for scholarships of graduating seniors. This would be two scholarships a year over the next four years in the amount \$1,250 each.

A motion was made to accept the donation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Sayward Family to create scholarships for graduating seniors:

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

6.0 Reports

6.1 Chair

The Chairperson noted that no candidates officially filed paperwork to run for the upcoming vacant seat. In the absence of write-in candidates, a temporary member will be appointed to serve until the next election. However, if write-in votes are cast, they will be tallied and the individual receiving the highest number of votes will be seated.

The Chair also announced that this was Darryk Kelly's final public meeting. The Chair and the other Committee members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Kelly, thanking him for his dedication, his years of service, and his steadfast commitment to the students and families of York.

6.2 Superintendent

6.2.1 Resignations at the end of this school year:

Emily Wall - YHS Physical Sciences Teacher
Keri Harrod - Second Grade Teacher - CRES

6.2.2 Retirements

6.2.3 Transfers

6.2.4 New Hires

6.2.5 Additional Items:

The annual Superintendent's evaluation was discussed and distributed to the School Committee members. The Committee will meet in executive session at the Central Office on May 6, 2026, at 4:00 PM to review evaluation results. This session will replace the regularly scheduled School Committee meeting previously set for that day.

6.3 Assistant Superintendent

6.3.1 Assistant Superintendent Kaschuluk highlighted recent events happening across the schools, including a heartfelt student poetry slam at York Middle School and a successful STEM Day at CRES sponsored by Pratt and Whitney. She offered a gracious thank you to Pratt and Whitney and their 30+ volunteers for their work in bringing the event together, noting that students and staff alike were impressed with the day's activities.

6.3.2 Dr. Kaschuluk also reported that significant updates to the middle school schedule have been designed for the 2026-2027 school year. After a serious review of the current schedule by various stakeholders and committees, an updated plan was developed to allow for increased instructional time, more student choice and voice, and a more diverse set of course options, all while maintaining the middle school model. Under this plan, rising 7th and 8th graders will have the opportunity to pick their classes similarly to how it is done at the high school level.

6.4 Student Representatives

The School Committee's student representatives shared the following recent events that have taken place in and around the schools:

York Middle School

- This week is Spirit Week, featuring daily themes such as PJ Day, Rhyme with No Reason, and Dress Like Something that Starts with the First Letter of Your Name.
- The 7th and 8th grade Student Council successfully collected approximately 350 items during their recent food drive to support the YCSA Food Pantry.
- The Soul Models student activity club is scheduled to return this spring.

York High School

- Little Shop of Horrors debuted this past weekend.
- Spring Sports are underway with games starting this week.
- Students are leaving for class trips Thursday, Italy being one of the destinations.

Village Elementary School

-The art teacher, Ms. Kochka, hosted her annual tea party this week. Students created still lives from the tea pots that will be displayed next month at the Barn Gallery in Ogunquit.

Coastal Ridge Elementary School

- Students recently celebrated Maine's 206th birthday.
- 4th Graders recently participated in the Game of Life, with the support of 50+ parent volunteers.
- 2nd graders made a trip to Zack's Farm to learn about the maple sugar process.

7.0 Current Openings

Superintendent Doak shared the current openings/vacancies for the York School Department:

Academic Tutors - SPED	Ed Techs - SPED	Health/PE Teacher Long-term Substitute - YHS
Computer Technician - (Anticipated) YSD	Extended School Year Occupational Therapist - SPED	Boys High School Varsity Soccer - YHS
Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) - SPED	Extended School Year Coordinator - SPED	Substitute Van Driver
MTSS Behavior (Anticipated) - VES	Extended School Year Ed Tech's - SPED	Substitute School Nurses K-12
Speech and Language Pathologist - SPED	Extended School Year Teachers - SPED	Substitute Teachers K-12
Physical Therapist - SPED	Extended School Year Speech Therapist - SPED	

Public Comment

(If a public comment is needed, the Chair reads the following statement)

The York School Committee values public input and encourages community members to share their thoughts. To allow for a diverse range of perspectives and maintain a timely meeting, we ask that each public comment be limited to three (3) minutes.

The York School Committee recognizes the value of public comment and participation in school and educational matters. The York School Department's policy, BEDH Public Participation at York School Committee Meetings, is attached to this agenda and can be found on the York School Department website.

[YSD Policy BEDH](#)

The following community members addressed the Committee:

The following parents of current and former students addressed the Committee to express concern regarding potential changes to the middle school band program. Each speaker urged the Committee to maintain the program in its current form, citing its importance to student development and the success of the music department.

- Steve Scapicchio
- Britton Garon
- Melissa Plocinski
- Siobhan McAfee
- Kate & Dan Gardoqui
- Jen Valu

Parent and former member Robert Hover addressed the Committee to thank Darryk Kelly for his service and contributions during his term.

Parent Magda Cardenas expressed support for the existing band program and asked for more public information on the anticipated benefits of the proposed restructuring for music and other students.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Superintendent Doak presented nominations for professional staff moving from first-year to second-year probationary contracts for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	Description	Location
Megan Baker	1:1 Nurse	VES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Karen Brown	Social Worker	VES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Debora Nary	Teacher - Literacy Specialist	YMS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Christine Palmisano	Teacher - Spanish	YMS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		

8.2 Superintendent Doak presented nominations for professional staff moving from second-year to continuing contracts for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	Description	Location
Hillary Bascom	Teacher - Speech	YMS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Margaret Bodwell	Psychologist	YMS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Megan Greer	Teacher - Pre-K	VES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Adina Hunter	Behavioral Specialist	CRES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Melissa Jean	Teacher - Special ED SC	CRES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		

Douglas MacLellan	Teacher - Music	YMS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Kristen Mullen	Nurse	YES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Shannon Murray	Teacher - STEAM	YES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Kristen Pedersen	Teacher - Kindergarten	YES
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Tanner Pidgeon	Teacher	YMS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Leanna Simao	BCBA	YMS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		
Stephanie Topping	Teacher - Math Interventionist	YHS
Motioned by: Darryk Kelly		Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans		In Favor
Discussion Needed: No		

8.3 The following policies were brought forward for a first read, with motions to move to a second read:

2025-26 YSC draft ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly	Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans	In Favor
Discussion Needed: No	

2025-26 YSC draft GBEC - Drug Free Workplace

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly	Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans	In Favor
Discussion Needed: No	

2025-26 YSC draft GBGB - Workplace Bullying

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly	Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans	In Favor
Discussion Needed: No	

2025-26 YSC draft GBGB-E Workplace Bullying Incident Report Form

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly	Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
Seconded by: Marie Evans	In Favor
Discussion Needed: No	

2025-26 YSC draft GBI-Staff Gifts and Solicitation

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

2025-26 YSC draft GBJ - Personnel Records and Files

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

2025-26 YSC draft IKF - Graduation Requirements

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 Official last day of school: Thursday, June 18th, 2026

A motion was made to declare the last official day of school of the 2025-2026 school year to be June 18th, 2026.

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

9.2 Reducing Kindergarten Classrooms from 6 to 5

A motion was made to reduce the number of Kindergarten classrooms from 6 to 5 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

Expanding Pre K from 2 to 3 Classrooms

A motion was made to expand the number of Pre-K classrooms from 2 to 3 for the 2026-2027 school year.

More discussion was needed for clarity surrounding the logistics of such a move, prior to the final vote.

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: Yes

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

9.3 Consideration of Policies ACAB, DJH, DN, EBBB, FF, & GAB for Second Read, with motions to adopt.

A motion was made to adopt the following policies as a slate:

2025-26 YSC draft ACAB - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees

2025-26 YSC draft DJH - Purchasing and Contracting

2025-26 YSC draft DN - School Properties Disposition

2025-26 YSC draft FF - Naming of Facilities

2025-26 YSC draft GAB - Job Descriptions

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: No

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

A motion was made to adopt the following policy after further discussion.

2025-26 YSC draft EBBB - Temperature Standards for Schools

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly
Seconded by: Marie Evans
Discussion Needed: Yes

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0
In Favor

10.0 Other Matters

11.0 Executive Session

12.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made.

Motioned by: Darryk Kelly

Motion carried by a vote: 5-0

Seconded by: Marie Evans

In Favor

Discussion Needed: No

Meeting adjourned at 8:14PM

Respectfully submitted by Heather Gilcrest