Yavapai County Educational Technology Consortium (YCETC)
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 5, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.
YCESA – Training Room and Zoom
2970 Centerpointe E Dr, Prescott 86301

Board Members	YCETC Title	March 7	June 6	Sept. 5	Dec. 5
Steve King	Ex Officio Facilitator	P	EX	P	P
Larry Fullmer	Instructional Technology Rep.	P	P	P	P
Gary Cummins	Instructional Technology Rep.	P	P	P	EX
Jessica Vocca	Group 3 School Rep.	EX	P	P	EX
Kristy Aston	Group 2 School Rep.	P	P	P	P
Marvy McNeese	Group 1 School Rep	P	P	P	P
John Morgan	Yavapai College Rep.	P	P	EX	P
Corey Christians	Library Rep.	P	EX	P	P
Bill Sakelarios	Charter Rep.	EX	P	P	P

P=Present; EX=Previous notice of absence; ABS=No previous notice of absence
Also present were: Frank Vander Horst – YCESA e-Rate, Rachel Fisher – YCESA e-Rate, Audrey Isley – YCESA

1. Call to Order (Marvy McNeese)
   Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.
2. Welcome and Establishment of Quorum (Marvy McNeese)
   A quorum was established.
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Marvy McNeese)
4. Limited Call to the Public
   - The public is invited to speak about any agenda item.
   - There is a limit of three (3) minutes per speaker and 20 minutes total.
   - Request to speak must be in writing and provided to the Clerk at the beginning of the meeting or prior to any agenda item.
   - The President has absolute direction over procedural matters.
   - The board may waive their "Public Participation Policy" as it applies to all speakers.
   - Members of the public may indicate their support or opposition to a topic, in writing that will be noted and entered into the record.
   - The Board may not respond to comments from the public but may ask the facilitator to respond or place the item on a future agenda.

   There were no limited calls from the public.

5. Discussion and Action Items of the Consent Agenda: *all items on the consent agenda may be adopted as a whole with one motion, unless a member of the Board wishes to consider it separately.* (Marvy McNeese)
    A. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2025
    B. Approval of the Meeting Agenda for December 5, 2025

   John Morgan made a motion to approve all of the above as presented; Marvy McNeese seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

6. Presentation, Discussion and Action Item: Legislative Update, Secure Rural Schools Act/ Forest Fee Management Association Report. (Steve King)
   Without being overly optimistic, email was received from Greg Smith – Chief of Staff for Congressman Crane – looks like the SRS reauthorization is going before the House for a vote next week. FFMA is meeting in two weeks, should have more solid information at that time if it comes to pass.

7. Presentation, Discussion and Action Item: E-Rate Update (Frank Vander Horst)
   Agreement for approval of internet proposals by location, discussion of admin fees:

   Background: 2018 – journey to bring internet to all schools and libraries. Saw an average of 87% price reduction. Then blended rate – everyone gets same cost per megabyte. Costs continued to be reduced for schools and libraries. Cost of internet has come down 96-97%. National downward trend, power of consortium's volume purchasing. Schools are getting a 20% discount via the consortium.

   RFPs went out. A Word doc was sent to everyone containing the three company bids – Sparklight, Lumen, MetroNet – see attached summary. Sparklight is the least expensive and included the most information as requested for the RFP.

   Question regarding using Starlink – currently at Hillside Elementary and 3 library locations. If Starlink was used at the lowest rate locations, it would save an additional 17%. Starlink did not respond to this RFP request. Starlink has gone through resalers for e-rate. Two resalers have reduced their prices from $500 to $179. John Morgan has questions about any looming issues regarding latency. Frank said there have been no reported issues with latency with Starlink.

   Corey Christians considering Starlink for library branches. Switching from Sparklight to Starlink would reduce costs by 7-8% in total for the consortium regarding the blended rate. Corey said in talking with his IT personnel, they will need to create a virtual network, using large amounts of data. 5TB data cap per Frank. Corey asked if the libraries can be removed from the blended cost if their internet costs are increasing the consortium rate as a whole. Frank assured the libraries are not a driver of the overall costs. Frank said that they can pay for overages if they know they will exceed the 5TB cap.

   Approval of Sparklight proposal: 3-year contract. If proposal is accepted – it is not committing those 14 locations to Sparklight. Larry Fullmer motioned to approve Sparklight; Bill Sakelarios seconded; unanimously approved.

   14 locations (with speeds of 200MB or less) will be given an option to opt-out and use Starlink, or any other. Another RFP, 470, 20 day waiting period, then 14 locations can

decide who they use. Because of the cost – do not need an RFP. Standard 470, no RFP. ***Frank to gather the comparison pricing for the 14 locations to consider.***

Admin Fees: designed to cover the cost of Frank and Rachel. 3 years ago, YCETC also paid $16k in consulting costs to Frank/Rachel. They now spend a lot more time on billing work than they did 3 years ago. Reducing admin fees to $0.05/MB would reduce the cost per MB for everyone even further. Because of blended rate, this could serve as an incentive for schools to purchase more MB.

Fees used at the discretion of County School Superintendent's office to distribute for other projects that benefit the county as a whole.

If admin fee is cut to $0.05 from $0.10 and speed is doubled, schools will pay the same amount, with greater speed. What if the school chooses to stay at the same speed? $0.05 admin fee for anyone over 5GB. Maintain $0.10 admin fee for anyone under 5GB.

Corey motioned to decrease admin fee from 10 to 5 cents for YCETC members greater than 5GB speeds; John Morgan seconded; unanimously approved.

8. Presentation, Discussion and Action Item: Update on AI and VR courses conducted by Yavapai College host by YCETC and FFMA (John Morgan)
John Morgan gave an update of his trip to Taiwan. He spent 10 days observing their schools, AI programs, and the tech that is swiftly moving into Phoenix. Between South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan, they are bringing in excess of $1 trillion. Estimated that Arizona will be the most high-tech state in the US by 2032, due to our reliably strong power grid, protected from natural disasters.

The level of education needed to generate employees for the tech that is moving in will be high, and the US, and Yavapai County specifically, is not currently positioned to meet that need. The systems are extremely complex, but in Taiwan, they are preparing students during grade school.

John observed a middle school classroom: 4 screens with AI instructors, all different demographics – instructors would turn and talk to each other while engaging with the students. Breakout tutoring, every student in front of a computer - AI can learn and customize delivery to every student's learning capacity. These were engaged, disciplined middle school students.

Can't turn back the clock on AI progress, but need discussions about where is it headed, what will states do legislatively? This will cost less than teaching – what are the ramifications? Likely to see a fundamental shift in educational delivery. No time to debate, we have to figure out how to work with it. If we do not participate – we will not be employable. Robyn is always working on course curriculum, but it evolves so fast.

John and Steve had meeting in Spring about future of AI and the allocation from FFMA to YCETC to provide AI training for high schools. The level of attendance was very low. YCFRC is working on building enthusiasm, working with Mehran Andalibi at ERAU, working with robotics lab. Allocation from FFMA to YCETC was at $25,000, have spent less than $3,000. Need discussion with FFMA to look at other ways to use those funds to bring information to high schools, such as working with willing districts to show what

this looks like, future conversation with FFMA and YCFRC to build demonstration models around the county, bring in targeted teachers that already have this on their radar, reinforce their successes.

It was agreed that committees, conferences, and summits move too slow – too much talk, not enough doing. John Morgan and Robyn working on getting a team to go down to Scottsdale to see a school that's starting to incorporate these methods. Tutoring bots can be demonstrated, as well as getting an idea of what a school can do.

Steve to bring it up to FFMA and bring to the Countywide Meeting in February.

9. Discussion and Action Item: The following Meeting Dates have been established by the board. The board may add future meeting dates:
    - *March 6, 2026 – 10am (Regular Meeting)*
    - *June 5, 2026 – 10am (Regular Meeting)*
    - *September 4, 2026 – 10am (Annual meeting)*
    - *December 4, 2026 – 10am (Regular Meeting)*

    May call a special meeting, if needed to approve 470 for Starlink.

10. Action Item – Adjournment – *Bill motioned to adjourn; Larry seconded; unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.*