

Yavapai College
District Governing Board
Special Board Meeting

Thursday, September 3rd, 2026
Rock House and Virtually
1:00 p.m.

The YouTube channel and Rock House will be open to the public at 12:45 p.m. at the latest. All individuals attending the meeting in person will be allowed to bring clear bags ONLY into the meeting. In addition, the College has implemented advanced weapons detections systems/metal detectors for attendees. These requirements are similar for attendees at any sporting event or concert, and they are intended to ensure safety. Please plan accordingly.

Prescott Campus
Rock House
1100 E Sheldon Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

Livestream Link:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/YavapaiCollege>

Member's Present:

Mr. Steve Bracety, Board Chair
Mr. Toby Payne, Board Secretary
Mr. William Kiel, Board Member
Mrs. Deb McCasland, Board Member

Administration Present:

Dr. Doug Berry, Acting President
Mr. Jon Paladini, Board Attorney
Ms. Kimberly Whitman, Secretary to the Board

AGENDA

1. General Functions: Procedural
 - a. Call to Order

This agenda item begins at: 13:00:06

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=42.168167>

- b. Pledge of Allegiance {Time: 1}

This agenda item begins at: 13:00:27

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=62.804256>

Dr. Ewell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- c. Call to the Public – **INFORMATION ONLY** – {Time: 10}
Yavapai College District Governing Board operates as a policy governance Board. This means that the Board makes all the policy decisions, adopts an annual budget, and hires the college president. The college president oversees daily operations and supervises college employees.

This agenda item begins at: 13:00:51

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=87.074698>

One Call Card was received at the Yavapai College District Governing Board September 3rd, 2026, Special Board Meeting for Ms. Linda Gray. Ms. Gray's call centered on her appreciation for the college and questions related to the Forensic Audit and accompanying documents. Ms. Grey's questions can be viewed at the link above.

d. Adoption of Agenda – Board Chair Steve Bracety – **DECISION** {Time: 5}

This agenda item begins at: 13:03:07

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=223.387076>

Board Chair Bracety, seconded by Board Member Kiel, moved to adopt the September 3rd, 2026, Yavapai College District Governing Board Agenda. The motion passed unanimously (Ayes: Kiel, McCasland, Payne and Bracety).

2. Board Business

a. Executive Session

- i. A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3)(Legal Advice) and (A)(4)(Contracts), Discussion and Direction to the Board's Attorneys Regarding the Terms of the College President's Contract – Attorney Jon Paladini, Board Attorney – **PROCEDURAL** - {Time: 45}

This agenda item begins at: 13:03:33

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=249.165941>

Board Chair Bracety, seconded by Board Secretary Payne, moved to move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously (Ayes: Bracety, McCasland and Payne, Nays: Kiel).

The Yavapai College District Governing Board moved into Executive Session at 1:06pm.

b. Convene in Public Session

- i. Possible Action: Consideration, Decision and or Approval of Agreement Related to Item 2a-i as a Result of Executive Session – Attorney Jon Paladini, Board Attorney – **DECISION** - {Time: 10}

This agenda item begins at: 14:10:26

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=364.74467>

The Yavapai College District Governing Board reconvened in public session at 2:10pm.

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Board Chair Bracety, second by Board Secretary Payne, moved to approve the settlement agreement and general release regarding Dr. Rhine that was discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote (Ayes: McCasland, Payne, and Bracety, Nays: Kiel).

A statement was read by Chair Bracety in regard to the settlement and Executive Session decision. The statement can be viewed at the link above.

- c. Forensic Audit Status Update – Representative from Baker Tilly Advisory Group LP, Dr. Douglas Berry, Acting President – **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION** - {Time: 45}

This agenda item begins at: 14:13:

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=546.3223>

Gwendolyn Kain from the Baker Tilly Advisory Group provided a presentation on the final findings of the Forensic Audit to the District Governing Board. No criminal activity was found at the end of the audit. The Baker Tilly Advisory group did provide best practice recommendations to the College for the future. Ms. Wendy Swarts, Chief Business Officer, also spoke on the accuracy of the findings of the Audit. Discussion was held after the presentation. The discussion can be viewed at the link above.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items - **INFORMATION, DISCUSSION AND DECISION** {Time: 10}

This agenda item begins at: 14:52:21

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=2865.705505>

Board Member Kiel requested a future agenda item to discuss the inclusion of the Secretary to the District Governing Board in future Executive Sessions.

Board Member McCasland requested an update on the District Governing Board and College Budget on a future agenda.

4. Adjournment of Board Special Meeting: Procedural – **DECISION** {Time: 1}

This agenda item begins at: 14:53:45

<https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=eb33abfa-70e4-4f43-a72f-b4ba016a5891&start=2963.533517>

Board Chair Bracety, seconded by Secretary Payne, moved to adjourn the September 3rd, 2026, Yavapai College District Governing Board Special Meeting at 2:53pm. The motion passed unanimously (Ayes: Kiel, Payne, Bracety, McCasland).

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly Whitman, Recording Secretary

9/23/2026

Date

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