

Whatcom County Youth Fair Meeting

Date: February 12, 2026

Attendees: Janel Black, Monica Henken, Shai Adair, Joanne Odens, Robert Greene, Abby King, Maddy King, Jeff Kentch, Maisha Lindquist, Shannon O'Neill, Katie Penke, Haily Marino, Grace Ling

Meeting called to order: 7:08 pm

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Approved

Old Business:

- Focus on obtaining sponsorships and donations for each division.
- Compile a shared list of businesses being contacted to avoid duplicate requests. ● Jason will help coordinate fair setup.
- Trailer resealed by Todd Black; supplies reviewed after mouse damage to ribbon box. ● Trophy needs for animal divisions should be submitted before the end of February.
- Janel says the best way to contact her is by text because she is receiving 700+ youth fair emails a day.
- VanWingerden hanging basket certificates have been requested and will be available during the Youth Fair for \$40 each. They can also be ordered through the FairEntry program.

New Business:

- Farm Expo on February 28th at the Lynden Fairgrounds (9am–2pm) to promote Youth Fair and recruit participants. Amanda put together a package for the setup (including customized background, banners, stickers, games and tablecloths.)
- Forms for superintendents and sponsorship packets are available on the Youth Fair website.
- Discussion regarding barn and facility space due to some buildings no longer being available.
- FairEntry will replace the previous ShowWorks online entry system due to cost and software issues.
- Scholarship checks were mailed; one recipient will receive an additional \$200 correction.
 - Scholarship deadline moved to March 15th and will be announced publicly.
 - The Youth Fair was awarded a \$16,000 Grant for a brand new storage trailer that also must include Whatcom County Youth Fair wrap/advertisement on the outside. Janel will submit and meet with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to complete the steps necessary to receive the refund for the new trailer after it is purchased. All steps must be completed by strict deadlines or no money will be awarded from the Grant.
 - Motion passed to send Amanda a thank-you bouquet (up to \$100) for her work on Youth Fair systems and website. Monica will take care of ordering the bouquet.
- Haily Marino coordinating silent auction donations; possible move to online auction platform.
 - Need additional volunteers for sanitizing bleachers and animal areas during fair nights.
 - Discussion on rebuilding youth involvement through FFA, school leadership groups, and teen leaders. Maddi and Haily will touch base to follow up with the communication.
 - Exploration of using student social media volunteers to promote Youth Fair.

Next Meeting:

March 12, 2026 at Church Road Fire Hall at 7:00pm

Pizza will be provided at 6:45 pm and attendance for superintendents is mandatory.

Important Dates:

- Registration Opens: February 15
- Registration Closes: March 15
- Youth Fair: April 10-11, 2026

Meeting Adjourned: 8:13