

# YLA Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2018

**Board Members Present:** Matthew Littleton, Vice-Chair, Roslyn Holcombe, Secretary, Ashley Clark, Michael Hendricks, Stacy Powell and Lloyd Silva.

**Board Members Excused:** Mark Mogge, Chair, Stephanie Price, Treasurer and Tiffany Stewart.

**Others Present:** Sandee Blankenship, Principal and Patsy Smith, Director.

**Call To Order:** The YLA Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, October 8, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Learning Institute Board Room #1. Matthew Littleton, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Public Input:** None

**Previous Month Minutes Approval:** Ashley Clark made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting as presented. Stacy Powell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Statement:** The Financial Statements for September were presented. Patsy Smith reported that there was nothing out of the ordinary reflected on the reports. Lloyd Silva made a motion to accept the reports as information. Ashley Clark seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**School Report:** Ms. Blankenship reported that the ChromeBook Training and New Parents Night went well. Parents were asked to bring their students' ChromeBooks for the training and were given instructions on how to sign up for Google Classroom and PowerSchool in order to keep up with their students' progress, assignments, attendance and lunch account balances. There were about 20 in attendance for the first Coffee with the Principal meeting. The 6<sup>th</sup> field trip to Camp Sewee was on September 26 – 28. Fall House Games will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be going to Cowpens on October 18<sup>th</sup> and to Dollywood on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The whole school will be going to see *The Grinch* on November 9 as a kick-off to the holiday giving season. A Burpeeathon will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> during Fall House Games to raise money for Wesley Durham. Wesley is the 10-year younger brother of former YLA student, McKenzie Durham. Wesley has Downs Syndrome and has recently begun losing use of his legs and other extremities. He and his family will have to travel to Cincinnati for further testing and treatment. Students have been asked to get pledges for doing burpees. All the money raised will go to assist this family with travel and medical expenses. The money from ticket sales for a Staff Dunking Booth will also be donated to Wesley's family. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honors students will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday this week. October 29<sup>th</sup> will be the end of the first 9 weeks.

**New Business:** With emotion, Patsy Smith reported that Board Member, Howard Brown, recently passed away. Howard was very instrumental in the development and implementation of YLA and has been a phenomenal resource and supporter of the school and administrators. Ms. Smith read the following statement and asked that it be entered into the minutes as tribute to Dr. Howard Brown and his contributions: "We remember Dr. Howard Brown as an integral part of the planning committee of YLA and as a beloved member of the teaching staff in YLA's first year. Always looking for grants, Dr. Brown wrote the successful ARC grant that funded our beautiful outdoor classroom, as well as many technology upgrades. Dr. Brown provided a constant reminder to our students of international

opportunities and opened their eyes to the world around them. He will forever be remembered as a model educator, who always put students first.”

**Enrollment Procedures and Attendance Policy:** Ms. Smith referred to the draft of the YLA/Tall Pines Enrollment Procedures and asked the Board to review and consider. Matthew Littleton made a motion to accept the Enrollment Procedures as presented. Lloyd Silva seconded. The motion carried. Ms. Smith also reported that work continues on the Attendance Policy. Now that all students have ChromeBooks, an amendment to the Attendance Policy could be considered regarding Virtual Make-Up days. Virtual Make-Up days could be used to “make-up” days missed from school due to inclement weather or other circumstances. Allowances would have to be made for wide-spread power outages. After discussion, Matthew Littleton made a motion to allow the Director and Principal to move forward with the amendment to the Attendance Policy. Michael Hendricks seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Blankenship reported that she was recently informed that there is some funding available from the State that could provide a reading coach position at YLA. An interest form has been filled out to request the funding and for the position to be added to the YLA staff. Ms. Blankenship stated that initially the position could begin with half of an FTE and move towards a full-time position. A possible candidate has been identified if the funding is secured. Lloyd Silva made a motion to accept the funding, if approved, add the .5 position to the YLA staff and proceed with filling the position. Ashley Clark seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Absenteeism Rule:** Ms. Blankenship reported that she had received several phone calls from parents regarding absenteeism. This year the absenteeism rule is that the student has to be present at school for at least half the day before they are counted present for the day. They are still counted absent from individual classes that they miss.

**Old Business:** Ms. Smith reported that Stephanie Price is willing to serve on the Board again. Stacy Powell made a motion to reappoint Ms. Price to the Board. Roslyn Holcombe seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Tim Fuller and Allison Osteen have already been approved to fill the Business Representative Board positions.

**Questions, Comments, Concerns:** None.

**Executive Session, if necessary:** Not necessary.

**Adjournment:** Michael Hendricks made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Roslyn Holcombe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roslyn Holcombe*

Roslyn Holcombe  
Recording Secretary