

## YLA Board Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2020

**Board Members Present:** Allen Sherwood, Becky Hooper, Lloyd Silva, Steve Duzan, Kerry Tucker, Cathy Moore, Stephanie Price, Lee Hammonds, Boyce Dunn, Matthew Littleton, Jane Hodgkin

**Others Present:** Sandee Blankenship, Principal; Patsy Smith, Director

**Call to Order:** The YLA board held its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. through a virtual google meeting. Steve Duzan, Chair, called the meeting to order; Cathy Moore seconded.

**Public Report:** NA

**Previous Month Minutes Approved:** Board members reviewed and approved minutes from March 2020. Matthew Littleton made motion to accept, and Stephanie Price seconded, with unanimous approval. Please revise the date within the Call to Order section of the March 2020 meeting minutes.

**Financial Statement:** Allen Sherwood made a motion to accept financial statements, Jane Hodgkin made motion to second, with unanimous approval.

**School Report:** Principal Sandee Blankenship presented a school report:

Since we met in March, YLA has done their best to make the best of the COVID-19 situation and delivering the best education possible to the students. In only two days, YLA began the virtual learning experience. Currently, Principal Blankenship is providing virtual weekly meetings for parents and students. The meetings are going well, and people are participating. Teachers are recognizing student completion rates are different and are adjusting appropriately.

Washington, DC, trip was cancelled.

Steve Duzan asked how students were managing psychologically. Sandee responded that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are experiencing a slight negative reaction, and Sandee and other teachers are using it as an opportunity to help students expand their perspective and understand that this is a worldwide issue.

Expansion is making great progress.

Matthew Littleton praised Sandee for a job well done. The board agrees.

**New business:** A new grading policy is presented. YLA students are not equally responding academically; some students are working very hard, some are not engaging as much, and some are not at home during the day to complete assignments. Because we cannot monitor if students are truly independently completing work, Sandee looked at examples from other school districts. Greenville County School District (GCSD) has a good model, and Sandee proposed that YLA use and modify the GCSD rubric: weekly grade for the 9 weeks – 100, 85, 70, 50 with specific description regarding effort and engagement for each; Friday is the cut-off day for assignments, Saturday & Sunday the work is considered late, and Monday of the following week starts a new grading cycle- all of weekly grades will average together to create the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grade; Sandee shared the rubric with the Board. Becky Hooper – asked about the 1/3 quarter averages; Sandee explained that 1/3 is 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 1/3 is 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and the other 1/3 is the average of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. EOC class averages will follow the

directive from State Superintendent Molly Spearman. Allen commented that clarification is needed regarding assignments counted as “not complete” on Monday. Boyce Dunn asked about leniency for students who do not have great internet access – Sandee responded that students who need paper packets can come to the school to receive those because she has continued to work 2 hours/day at the school. Allen suggested addressing sickness for the students & family members; Kerry Tucker asked if we should consider a 4-day week & Sandee responded that with regard to assignments we will be going to a 4-day week. Allen Sherwood made motion to accept, and Boyce Dunn seconded. The Board unanimously approved Sandee’s recommendation to use the rubric, and Sandee will present the rubric at the virtual parent meeting tonight.

These 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grades will not be used for Beta Club, A/B Honor Roll.

Steve commented on how Clemson has changed the way in which students are being graded.

Staff has created a send off for Spring Break video.

**Old business:** Matthew Littleton made motion to table amendment to attendance policy discussion. Allen Sherwood seconded. The Board unanimously approved tabling the discussion on the attendance policy amendment.

**Questions, Comments, Concerns:**

Allen Sherwood asked about helping students not feel so isolated. Sandee responded that one way we are doing things differently from other schools is pre-recorded lessons; virtual office time is for questions or come in to hang out; students are taking advantage of this and socializing with each other via this platform.

**Executive Session:** NA

**Adjournment:** Boyce Dunn made motion to adjourn. Allen Sherwood seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cathy Moore*

Secretary