

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

March 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 Monday, March 9, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Learning Institute Board Room #1. Steve Duzan, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Public Report: NA

Previous Month Minutes Approved: Board members reviewed and approved minutes from February 2020. Cathy Moore made motion to accept, and Lee Hammond seconded, with unanimous approval.

Financial Statement: Kerry Tucker made a motion to accept financial statements, Jane Hodgkin made motion to second, with unanimous approval. 120-day report turned in to Appalachian Regional grant for reimbursement of \$200,000. YLI is suspending payments until money is back in account.

School Report: Principal Sandee Blankenship presented a school report:

Lottery occurred after last board meeting. Currently 32 on wait list – 96 students have been invited decided to enroll, based on the lottery results. The lottery went very well.

7th grade had to initially postpone Clemson field trip due to weather, but once they were able to go – it was a fantastic experience – teachers and students enjoyed and want to go back. They participated in a DNA lab, were able to solve a crime, extract their own DNA and put it in a necklace to take it home; the PTA hosted a glow dance for Valentine’s day; YLA staff completed online CPR training, and the practical portion was conducted during planning periods. Growing Leaders night was postponed and rescheduled for March 24 – no additional money spent to reschedule; 8th grade went to see *Call of the Wild* and it was wonderful; 1st and 2nd rounds of Amazing Shake have gone well, and the 3rd round is set for next Friday - Sandee and Patsy have excused themselves from any of the judging to avoid a conflict of interest since Sandee’s daughter is competing in the competition. A YLA teacher has completed the defensive driving course through Clemson, so he can now drive for field trips. Chick-fil-A night in Easley was a successful fundraising event. A YLA student presented on Black History Month; she approached Sandee and asked if she could lead a group for a Black History Month presentation. High school registrations are going well and almost finished. Enrollment packets for our rising 6th grade are due Friday, March 13, 2020. Author Jessica Khoury visited YLA, presented and encouraged students to write. She talked about the struggles writers face and zeroed in on the rewriting process – resilience. Picture day was today, and it went really well. The golf tournament is coming up. Sandee passed packets around and asked if the members of the board could recruit a sponsorship, team, and/or prizes. We continue to wait for buildings to be delivered. The weather has kept the delivery from happening. The current process: the YLI team prepares the site, Carolina Modular delivers and sets the building on concrete blocks and puts buildings back together, then the YLI team completely refurbishes the buildings from top to bottom.

Career fair will occur on April 1. If we know anyone who is willing to participate, let Mr. Hyder know.

Coronavirus – Handout from Molly Spearman: Up to individual School Boards; currently, the Pickens board has not sent any communication; we must also consider Clemson University policy.

New business: Attendance policy – Attendance is an issue with students at YLA. Sandee presented the issue to the Board because if a problem comes up, the Board may be asked for involvement. Sandee is seeking guidance from the board to determine whether an absence is excused or not, specifically in regard to parent notes and family trips and parent notes. Sandee asked for guidelines, so that she and Laura can have consistency and insert a policy in the handbook

Suggestions / Ideas / Questions:

Could the Board appoint members who do not have students at the school as advisors; add definition of valid; add “in good standing”; communicate in handbook the high school credit course guidelines with seat time; make it part of orientation from now on; lose ability to return to YLA; define what constitutes an unexcused absence; pre-approved absence due to vacation for up to 5 days; students in good standing; anything beyond x days of absence could result in termination from YLA; remove the word “unexcused.”

Based on this discussion, Patsy will draft a sample for us to review at the April meeting.

Old business: Expansion update – shared in school report.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: NA

Executive Session: NA

Adjournment: Steve Duzan made motion to adjourn. Allen Sherwood seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Moore

Secretary