

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 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. over Google Meet. Steve Duzan, Chair, called the meeting to order; Cathy Moore seconded. Unanimous approval.

Public Report: NA

Previous Month Minutes Approved: Board members reviewed and approved minutes from March 2020. Stephanie Price made motion to accept, and Allen Sherwood seconded, with unanimous approval.

Financial Statement: Allen Sherwood made a motion to accept financial statements, Jane Hodgkin made motion to second, with unanimous approval. Stephanie Price explained a bank account change due to an untimely manner of collecting money because parent payments were sent to YLI. Since YLI employees are not in the office, the committee met to discuss options. A PayPal account has been set up and parents feel much more comfortable about payments being made and accounted for in a timely manner. The Board will now be receiving a PayPal statement in addition to the other bank account statement. We will continue this way until circumstances change. Lloyd Silva made motion to approve and Cathy Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

School Report: Principal Sandee Blankenship presented a school report:

Since we met in April, YLA is beginning to wrap up instruction on May 19. The new grading policy has worked with little to no problems. Google Meets are still very active. Principal Blankenship drops in on those daily. She has noticed that those who do not have cell phones are quite active. They will be trying virtual house games on Wednesday of this week, in place of assignments. Instruction will be stopped on May 20 – formal instruction with assignments. May 21-22 will have virtual yearbook signing. Also, wrapping up “Own It” theme. Every teacher and student set a goal at the beginning of the year, and the box of goals will be dug up. Students will receive a photo of their goal. Staff will model the reflective activity of meeting / not meeting goal, and students will follow suit.

On June 2, 2020. We will have a Chromebook take up and a yearbook drive through. We will be asking underclassmen to assist. We will also have a photo backdrop for the 8th graders, and the tradition of 8th graders signing Coach Swords door will also be available. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. And no group photos will be allowed. We will get to have an 8th grade graduation and award ceremony in June. We are waiting on confirmation from the venue. We will only allow immediate family to come, so that we can practice social distancing. We will video and stream it in order to allow other family members to be “present.” We will also be able to have The Amazing Shake 3rd round of competition. We are going to remove the handshake part of the competition and focus on the other parts of the rubric. That will occur in August as soon as Clemson provides clearance. Report cards will be sent out

via email, just like 3rd quarter report cards were. We are considering continuing this practice next year. Parents have responded well to it, and it is a clear communication avenue. Principal Blankenship sends a text message out to all parents.

Expansion is making great progress; three classrooms will be ready to go by the start of school.

We are about to send out link to school pictures.

We have asked for lunch balances and after-care balances to be paid as soon as possible. Yearbooks will be held unless a parent has a financial hardship due to COVID-19.

Stephanie Price asked that Sandee let the board know so that we may have the opportunity to sponsor a student.

Orientation for rising 6th grade is also planned for August.

New business: Bank account update covered above; expansion update also covered above.

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:

Matthew Littleton presented a job well done to Patsy and Sandee. The quality of work and interaction with students has been excellent for students at YLA. Steve Duzan seconded that as well as the other Board members.

Steve Duzan asked, "What is the expectation for students beyond May 20?" We would love for students to participate in the yearbook signing, and we will send out a schedule of Google meets for the following week. We will also be sending out summer assignments, but we anticipate those assignments to be less than typical. We want students to continue reading, but we don't want them to be burned out when we come back in the fall.

Patsy suggested that the Board reconvene in June given due to the circumstances and need for updates. Steve Duzan agreed. No members from the Board objected.

Executive Session: NA

Adjournment Stephanie Price made motion to adjourn. Allen Sherwood seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Moore

Secretary