

YLA Special Called Board Meeting - Minutes

June 29, 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 a special called board meeting on June 29, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Steve Duzan, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Public Report: NA

Special Business:

Task Force In response to the South Carolina Department of Education's recommendations for reopening school, a task force will be created per acceptance from the Board. Members of the task force include: Sandee Blankenship, Patsy Smith, Susan Finley, Melissa Kennedy, Steve Duzan, and Tiffany Stuart (Nurse Practitioner, community member).

Matthew Littleton made motion to approve. Jane Hodgkin seconded the motion, and all Board members unanimously approved the members recommended by Principal Sandee Blankenship.

Calendar Discussion

Based on the level of risk of Pickens County, the task force will create a return-to-school calendar plan.

Principal Blankenship noted that we want to be face to face as much as we can, but if Pickens County is in middle to high range, we may need to push the start back of school to September, with the hopes of Pickens County falling back to low levels. Principal Blankenship recommends sending two calendars out to parents.

Concern is if rising 6th graders need to start virtually because YLA does not use the same platforms as Pickens County's elementary schools. Additionally, they will be new to the YLA experience, and they are not familiar with their teachers.

Chair Steve Duzan thought it made sense to communicate up front the two optional calendar plans. Jane Hodgkin noted that as a parent, it is good to know plans A, B, and C, so that she can prepare for it.

A discussion ensued about hybrid days – A days / B days. Principal Blankenship noted this was a consideration.

Question - If school started later, could the 6th graders come earlier to get something going on prior to the official start of school? Response - Yes, we could create a plan to bring them in small groups.

Next steps are for the task force to create plans, and the Board will meet again to review and approve each of the plans. The goal is for the task force to get 3 plans on the table for the Board to approve.

Questions / Comments / Concerns

Question - Any indications of students who decide to opt out of YLA and go to county's virtual academy?
Response - So far, based on the survey, only 3 parents said they were not comfortable with sending their children.

Question - Is there a time frame on getting info out to parents? Response - Hopefully, by July 6, the initial plan will be out. If changes occur, we will do the best we can with what we have.

Executive Session: The Board entered Executive Session to discuss new hires and enrollment question concerning a specific student. Following adjournment of Executive Session, the following decisions were brought forward:

1. Becky Hooper made motion to expand enrollment to include 3 more students to the rising 7th grade class, and Stephanie Price seconded. The Board unanimously approved expanding the enrollment.
2. Matthew Littleton made motion to approve the addition of a school nurse. Jane Hodgkin seconded, and the Board unanimously approved adding a school nurse using CARES Act money.

School Report: The golf tournament went very well. It is believed we surpassed our goal.

Adjournment: Steve Duzan made motion to adjourn. Stephanie Price and Matthew Littleton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Moore

Secretary