

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

February 10, 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, February 10, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Learning Institute Board Room #1. Allen Sherwood, vice-chair, called the meeting to order.

Public Report: NA

Previous Month Minutes Approved: Board members reviewed and approved minutes from January 13, 2020. Jane Hodgkin made motion to accept, and Lee Hammonds seconded, with unanimous approval.

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:

Beta Club members attended the annual Junior Beta Club Convention in Myrtle Beach in January and won first place in the SongFest competition.

Almost all IGPs (Individual Graduation Plan) are completed with eighth graders and their parents. An email will go out soon offering midyear conferences to all 6th and 7th grade parents.

Principal Blankenship presented at the quarterly YLI Team Meeting, and Beta Club students performed their SongFest entry for the YLI leadership from across the state.

Social Studies teacher Leigh Fine conducted the NatGeoBee in January.

Coffee with the Principal was held recently with a good attendance of around 25 parents. Principal Blankenship used Tim Elmore's book *12 Huge Mistakes Parents Can Avoid*.

One classroom was flooded during the recent heavy rain, during which Pickens County declared a state of emergency. During the past 10 days, our area has experienced 72 degree sunshine, torrential floods, power outage, and two days of snow.

As of 3:00 pm this afternoon, 131 students have applied for the rising sixth grade class, with 22 of those having preferential enrollment. Tomorrow an email will go out to all applicants letting them know their status following this evening's lottery at 6:00 pm (which is open to the public, but attendance is not required).

High school registration is in full swing for our eighth graders. Students headed to Daniel High School will visit in March, those going to Liberty High will visit later this month, and those headed to Pickens High School visited today. We have not gotten a response from Easley High School yet.

Friday, February 14, will be a Professional Learning Day. All staff will participate in online CPR/First Aid training, with a follow up visit from a certified representative to test participants on their practical knowledge in order to receive certification.

February 20 will be "Growing Leaders Night," with all current and rising 6th grade parents invited for a free hotdog supper and presentation by Andrew McPeak, co-author with Tim Elmore of *Marching Off the Map*, a book about Generation Z. A student group will also present on social media awareness. The PTO will be present to sell school t-shirts and sweatshirts, as well as PuraVida bracelets in school colors.

First round of The Amazing Shake will be February 24th, and Picture Day will be coming soon.

New business: Patsy Smith presented a new formula for Performance Bonuses moving forward, as the current formula relies heavily on EVAAS scores, which the State Department of Education no longer uses. Matthew Littleton made a motion to adopt the new formula, Boyce Dunn seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Old business: All new classrooms will be delivered on February 25th, and YLI construction crew has been very busy preparing the site for them.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: Matthew Littleton, who works with Emergency Preparedness, commented for the good of the group to remind everyone of how fast water rises during flood conditions and urged everyone to keep safety at the forefront. Matthew communicates directly with Principal Blankenship during severe weather conditions, and board members expressed their appreciation to him for his assistance.

Executive Session: Becky Hooper made the motion to adjourn to executive session to hear employment reports. Jane Hodgkin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Following the reports, Matthew Littleton made the motion to return to public session, Allen Sherwood seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. No vote was necessary concerning the information given.

Adjournment: Allen Sherwood made motion to adjourn. Matthew Littleton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patsy Smith

Filling in for Secretary Cathy Moore