

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2022

Board Members Present (highlighted): Steve Duzan, Nick McClellan, Cathy Moore, Tenley Murphy
Cynthia Deaton, Chris Elrod, Matthew Kutilek, Craig Trainer, Rebecca Willis, Kenna Dillard,

Others Present: Sandee Blankenship, Principal; Melissa Kennedy, Assistant Principal; Nathan Swords, Special Projects Coordinator for YLA

Public Input: NA

Call to Order: The YLA board held its monthly meeting on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in Mrs. Kutilek's classroom. Steve Duzan called the meeting to order.

Welcome New Board Members: Sandee reviewed the required documents for Board Members: background check, board training, board expectations, and conflict of interest. These must be on file for someone to officially become a Board member. Sandee will resend the Board Training email to all members. We will not have a Board meeting in December. Regarding Board Member email addresses, we have now created a Google space for Board meetings. Board members need to log in and create their Gmail address using first name.last name@ylaofsc.com. Directions to do this were provided by Nathan Swords.

Sandee explained the contract between YLA and Clemson University in addition to details about the budget the Board is responsible for managing. Board attendance: missing consecutive meetings is grounds for Board dismissal. Sandee also explained that every month, we will receive a financial statement as well as the previous month's minutes. Those items will need to be approved at each meeting. Topics that are not public information are considered confidential, and if a Board member shares that information, it is grounds for Board dismissal.

Previous Month Minutes Approved: A motion was made to approve the October minutes by Cathy Moore, Kenna Dillard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statement: There are two accounts for the Board; one is a PayPal account only. Parents/Students pay online via PayPal – nothing is ever paid out of that account. It is only for receiving money. Nick McClellan made motion to accept, Cynthia Deaton seconded, and the financial statement passed unanimously.

Old Business: The Board watched a short video of Vince's training. He is doing very well. He even attended the Veteran's Day celebration and was very well behaved. Students are also responding well to Vince. The monthly Vince budget will be presented in January 2023.

New Business:

- Appointed Board Positions
 - Education – Motion made for Christie Dunson by Chris Elrod to be the Education representative on the Board, seconded by Kenna Dillard. The Board passed the motion unanimously.
- New Board Positions
 - Chair – Steve Duzan is stepping down as Chair. Nomination for Betsy Anthony to be the new Chair. Rebecca Willis made motion to accept the Betsy Anthony nomination. Nick McClellan seconded. The Board approved unanimously.
 - Vice-Chair – Motion made by Cynthia Deaton for Nick McClellan to be Vice-Chair; Cathy Moore seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.
 - Secretary – Motion made by Nick McClellan for Cathy Moore to be the Secretary; Cynthia Deaton seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.
 - Treasurer – Motion made by Rebecca Willis for Kenna Dillard to be the Treasurer; Cynthia Deaton seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.
- 2022-2023 Board Meeting Schedule
 - The Board will meet the second Monday of the month at 4pm. Cathy Moore made motion to approve the schedule, Kenna Dillard seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.
 - Required – meeting 10 months of the year
- Lottery System
 - Because we have grown, the lottery hopper and bingo balls are no longer manageable. *Lotterease* is a charter lottery vendor that electronically manages the lottery process, including wait lists and email updates to parents, for \$2500/year. In addition to managing the lottery process, a third party managing the lottery will decrease negative public opinion and perceptions about the lottery. Rebecca Willis made motion to approve the use of *Lotterease*, and Cynthia Deaton seconded; the Board approved unanimously.

Sandee summarized that YLA opened in 2012 and our Charter was renewed this year. She is also the Director of Tall Pines STEM Academy, and we are submitting a separate Charter for a hybrid virtual school that would open in 2024-2025. She will be the Director for that school as well.

Principal's Report: Sandee presented at the Charter School District on Recruitment / Retention to Year Zero principals. 8th grade pumpkin carving went well as well as their career center and Dollywood trip. Fall spirit week and the Halloween Dance went well. PTO did an excellent job with those, and they are continuing this work with American Ed week and dance prep. Student Council Rally went well. This was our first year, and students enjoyed it. NIET was here today. They are a teaching organization and conducted a needs assessment at YLA to help us uncover areas for improvement. The NIET rep told Sandee that she had never been to a school like YLA

before, and that there was something special here. She said that students she interviewed were concerned about missing Science class, and she was very impressed with the students.

Our school report card came back as Excellent. Math and ELA received Meets and Exceeds scores. Compared to other counties and Districts, we outperformed them all.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: Ideas are welcome; questions are welcome. If parents are also serving on the Board, parent concerns are not to be brought up in the Board meeting. Please bring those to Sandee's attention outside of the Board meeting. Essentially, we are at the point where a successful school has been built. It is up to the Board to keep the school running and successful, to maintain YLA as a successful school.

Does Fundraising occur? Yes – Nathan Swords is in charge of it. The two biggest fundraisers are school pictures and the golf tournament. The funds are raised for specific items and those are announced with each fundraiser. For example, the YLA app was purchased from funds raised.

Clarification - Sandee is the only employee of the Board.

Can we schedule a campus tour? Yes – several Board members are interested; email Sandee a time that is good and she will schedule it.

Don't forget to turn in your Conflict of Interest and Background Check forms.

Executive Session: Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Kenna Dillard, Rebecca Willis seconded. The Board approved unanimously. Nick McClellan made motion to exit Executive Session, Cathy Moore seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Craig Trainer made motion for meeting to adjourn; Steve Duzan seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Catherine R. Moore, Secretary