

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2022

Board Members Present (highlighted): Steve Duzan, Nick McClellan, Cathy Moore, Stephanie Price, Joe Burgett, Jessica Burnett, Tenley Murphy, Cynthia Deaton, Stacy Browder, Lauren Willis, Betsy Anthony

Others Present: Sandee Blankenship, Principal; Patsy Smith, Director

Call to Order: The YLA board held its monthly meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the Youth Learning Institute Head Quarters in the Board Room. Steve Duzan called the meeting to order.

Public Report: NA

Previous Month Minutes Approved: Nic McClellan made motion to approve January's minutes. Jessica Burnett seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

Financial Statement: Cathy Moore made motion to approve December 2021 financials. Steve Duzan seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.

New Business: First review of the 2022-2023 School Calendar; teachers report one day earlier than Pickens County teachers, and students report one day earlier than Pickens County students.

Old Business: Board members visited the SCPCSD with Patsy and Sandee to support our YLA 10-year charter renewal. The Board members reported a great visit and were very proud of how YLA was represented at the renewal hearing. The charter contract will actually arrive in the next couple of months.

Principal's Report: We are finishing IGPs for 8th graders and about to start high school registration. For the first time in 10 years, Easley High School will be participating. This is our last class of 48 to be registering for High School. Next year, we will have a graduating class of 96! Another huge step in the right direction is Pickens High School has included our students in the clap out for graduates at the end of the year, and the graduates from YLA will come back to our campus to walk around in their cap and gown.

We have lifted our COVID seating chart requirements in order to allow students to experience school with other/additional classmates. We are still planning to go to Disney. We are all set for hiring for next year – Hillary Hennessee is taking the SPED position, Bridget Sitterle is taking 8th Grade Science.

We will be starting The Amazing Shake in March and are also currently planning Spring House Games.

The Golf Tournament is May 14, and it is asked that each Board member get a team or sponsor. There are 4 people per team, and the Tournament is at The Rock.

The 8th grade Dance is scheduled at Greenbrier Farms in Dacusville, SC. The Dance is scheduled for May 13.

We will be receiving an SRO at the end of this year who will also be with us next year. We will also hire another cleaning crew member next year.

Construction plans for next year are already underway – flooring, decks, removing carpet.

Overall, everything is good. On a personal note, Sandee is healthy and doing well.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: Are there any plans in the future for a guidance counselor? Currently, Principal Blankenship does the work of a guidance counselor. Behavioral Health sends a counselor to YLA if students are in need. There are currently no plans to hire a guidance counselor.

The Board recognizes the value that Patsy Smith brings to YLA. Without her, we would not be here. Thank you, Patsy, for your service and your vision.

Executive Session: N/A

Adjournment: Nic McClellan made motion to adjourn; Lauren Willis seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Catherine R. Moore

Catherine R. Moore, Secretary