

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023

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

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

Call to Order: The YLA board held its monthly meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Mrs. Kutilek's classroom. Betsy Anthony called the meeting to order.

Public Input: NA

Previous Month Minutes Approved: A motion was made to approve the January 2023 minutes by Chris Elrod, Cathy Moore seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statement: A motion was made to approve the January 2023 financials by Cathy Moore, Craig Trainer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Virtual Charter School, Summit Academy, update: Members of the Board have been selected to for the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will go to the SC Public Charter District in March for the first reading of the Charter. If anyone wants to read it, the Charter application is on our shared Google Drive. Thursday is the last day to receive resumes for Principals, and then we will begin the process of hiring.

New Business:

Usually YLA does a Burpeethon to raise funds for child/family with special needs. Currently, there is not a wheelchair accessible playground swing in Pickens county. Sandee would like to raise money for that, so we can raise money for many families. In talking with Chief Beach and others, the idea of Chase the Cop has grown very fast. With Chief Beach, Sandee has invited all law enforcement in the county, and all have agreed to send officers. We will have a certified 5K course as well as a pledge system to run in the Chase the Cop event. Law enforcement will wear flags and youth will pull the flags. The goal is to raise money for a swing that will be placed at Doodle Park. The cost of the swing is \$20,000 and that does not include installation. The thought is that if this is a success, we can do this yearly and raise money to add equipment for special needs children at various playgrounds across the county.

Because the community needs this so badly, and YLA does not need the additional funds at this time, the Golf Tournament will be cancelled this year and all resources will be used for the Chase the Cop event. The whole community will come together to raise money for a community need. Overall, this event will replace the Burpeethon and Golf Tournament. Tentative dates are April 22 and May 13. Board Members will be asked to secure a sponsor and/or four runners/walkers.

Chris Elrod mentioned that the city is renovating Jaycee park, so if we run into a problem, we may be able to work with them.

Betsy Anthony mentioned that Beta Club is the only other organization fundraising. Coach Swords notified us that he is still in the process of learning the total cost for National Competition, but we know that Louisville, KY, is more affordable than Nashville was last year.

Principal's Report: We have completed all IGP meetings with 8th graders and started high school registration for them. This year, we have several who will be going out of county to charter high schools, which means students will be attending 8-9 unique high schools after YLA graduation. Beta Club won State and is going to Nationals. A lot of effort has gone into submitting the Charter. More field trips are being planned - 8th grade is going to Charleston and 6th grade is going to Georgia; MAP testing is coming up for the last Benchmark test; a former student is coming to do an Eagle Scout project on campus. Also, we are about to host 6 Teaching Fellows from Clemson. Sandee spoke at SWU's Education Dept. last week, so we should receive some teachers from them as well. We've had an archery club for about a year now, and at a recent competition, one female archer placed 3rd and a male archer place 3rd, overall, we are 10th in the state. Finally, we are getting a School Counselor, Rebecca Trotter, for next year. Her child attended YLA, so she is very familiar with our culture. Lauren Hodge is moving to Saluda in a couple of years. She teaches 8th grade Math, so we will be looking for someone to replace her in the 2024-2025 school year. If the charter is approved, Melissa Kennedy will move into full time Assistant Principal. There will be additional movement once the charter is approved. Cynthia Deaton noted that Laura Eicher places teachers for Clemson University and would be a good resource for us as teacher needs arise.

The lottery is tonight. This is the first time we are outsourcing the process. If parents do not attend the lottery, they will receive an email notification from the company, Lotteries. YLA will also contact families who have been accepted. Currently, we have 246 applicants with 96 slots but only 56 are available (after preferentials). We will have a lot of students on the waiting list, but we can keep that list and inform them of Summit Academy as charter approval comes.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: Severe weather day – how do we dismiss students early? Typically, if there is a chance of a tornado, we cancel. The students and teachers received communication and training at the beginning of the year on where to go in case of a weather emergency. Parents will be alerted via message.

Executive Session: N/A

Adjournment: Chris Elrod made motion for meeting to adjourn; Cynthia Deaton seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Catherine R. Moore, Secretary