

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

March 6, 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, March 6, 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 February 2023 minutes by Christie Dunson, Cynthia Deaton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statement: A motion was made to approve the February 2023 financials by Cathy Moore, Nick McClellan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Sandee explained that our balance is sitting higher than usual due to ESSER funds.

Old Business:

Percentage increase with Clemson – Currently, the State Dept. provides monthly payment to YLA, and 96% of that goes to Clemson. In order for us to have a Guidance Counselor, we need to increase the percentage to 97.5%. Robert Frager with YLI drew up a new MOU, and the Board needs to vote on it today. July 1, 2023, will be the start date for Guidance Counselor. Upon approval, the 97.5% will begin next month. With our one vote to adopt the new MOU, it will go into YLA bylaws. Cathy Moore and Matthew Kutilek recused themselves from voting due to conflicts of interest. Cathy Moore works for YLI and Matthew Kutilek's wife teaches at YLA. Rebecca Willis made motion to pass and Cynthia Deaton seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Summit Academy updates – Interviews have begun. 10 phone interviews have occurred and that has been narrowed down to six. In person interviews will begin on March 22. April 20 is when they will recommend to the Board yay or nay to proceed with the charter, but we should know earlier than that. We can offer the job to a Principal contingent upon approval, and once we have approval, we will announce the Principal.

Hot Pursuit 5K – Currently, we are about \$6500-\$6600 in profit. The students have not begun asking for pledges, and sponsorships are not complete. Nathan Swords is coordinating the event.

We ask each Board Member to find a sponsorship or recruit 4 runners. The Sponsorship Form only goes up to \$1000, but if you have a business that is interested in giving more, please refer them to Nathan. Remember, the goal is to raise \$20,000. Complete sponsorships or recruitment of four participants by the April Board Meeting. Matthew Kutilek offered to recruit news media for the event – before the event and during the event. It has come to the Board's

attention that the Pickens Chamber of Commerce is promoting the event as a YLA Golf Tournament. Chris Elrod will correct that error and have them promote Hot Pursuit.

New Business: Submit Board Training certificates to Betsy Anthony upon completion. The next training is in May.

Sandee presented the 2023-2024 school calendar. The Board is to review the calendar presented today and will vote at the next Board meeting. Changes proposed – teachers reporting a day early (see email from Sandee).

The beginning and end of the school year coincide with Pickens County School District.

Principal's Report: Beta induction is tomorrow. The new lottery system is phenomenal. We did not realize that someone could be on their phone and watch the lottery occur from their account. Because we did not realize this, the meeting lasted longer than expected. At least 100 families showed up. Next year, we will ask families to log in to their accounts during the lottery process. There were 276 applicants this year, and the new lottery system automatically sends emails for YLA. The family clicks 'confirm' and the system sends enrollment information in addition to linking siblings. As a reminder, next year, Melissa Kennedy will be full time Assistant Principal. She has been filling in for Sandee this week. The following year, Melissa will step into full time Principal.

Questions, Comments, Concerns:

Executive Session: A motion was made by Christie Dunson to enter into Executive Session. Rebecca Willis seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Nick McClellan made motion to exit Executive Session.

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

Respectfully Submitted by

Catherine R. Moore, Secretary