

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 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, May 8, 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: Cathy Moore noticed that April's minutes show approval of "February 2023 financials," which is a typo. This will be corrected to show "March 2023 financials." A motion was made to approve the April 2023 minutes by Cathy Moore, Nick McClellan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statement: A motion was made to approve the April 2023 financials by Kenna Dillard, Nick McClellan, seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Summit Academy was officially approved with no conditions. Brian Lively will be the Principal. He will start on July 1. Susan Finley is the Instructional Coach; Cassie Hyder is the Special Projects Coordinator; Leah Fine is the Office Manager. A 7th Grade teacher position is open (Hennessey) and Laura Dalton has been hired. Next steps for SA – we are in the process of securing a domain for the website. Starting in August, our Board Meeting agenda will be split into two sections. The '23-'24 school year will be used SA to recruit and plan. Matthew Kutilek suggested a recruiting plan for SA. State charter law states that if you have more applicants than you have slots, the charter school is required to hold an enrollment lottery. Question – Within Pickens County, how many virtual students exist? Answer – Those numbers have not been shared with us. Question – is the plan for SA to become a high school, too? Answer - After 3 years, the Board will determine if we want to increase capacity of the school as a middle school or increase to a high school?

Tenley Murphy resigned. She has new commitments at work that keep her from being able to make it to Board meetings.

New STEM Board Nominations:

David Orr, Ph.D – Sandee met him at a school interest meeting, and he said to her that he wanted to be involved in YLA. He has stayed true to his work. He is a biomedical engineer, and he volunteered to participate in the Career Fair as well as the Amazing Shake. Considering his resume, he has vast STEM experience and expertise in the biomedical field.

Dr. Orr will be offered the Board position based on majority vote from the current Board members:

- Voting Yes for David Orr:
 - Christie Dunson
 - Becca Willis
 - Matthew Kutilek
 - Cynthia Deaton
 - Craig Trainer
 - Nick McClellan
 - Betsy Anthony
 - Cathy Moore

Phillip Trotter – Becca Willis recommended him. He brings both experience and years of service to the community.

New Business: N/A

Principal's Report: We have made it to May. By the end of May, things will feel much more like normal. Students are doing very well. 6th grade orientation was great – lots of excited students. The 5K went incredibly well. Two of the top 3 winners were YLA alumni. We exceeded our goal and have found a vendor to install the wheelchair accessible swing set for \$23,000. We have established May 11, 2024, for next year to continue this fundraiser. Students have experienced the power of noticing a community need and working together to find a solution.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: Summer board meeting, June 12 – virtual, skip July, pick up in-person in August.

Executive Session: N/A

Adjournment: Nick McClellan made motion for the meeting to adjourn; Kenna Dillard seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Catherine R. Moore, Secretary