

## YLA Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2022

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

**Others Present:** Sandee Blankenship, Principal

**Call to Order:** The YLA board held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at YLI in the Board Room.

**Public Input:** NA

**Previous Month Minutes Approved:** The minutes and financial statements are delayed. Kaylee voided a check – Stephanie Price signed the check, but we were holding it until we received the invoice. Somehow in the voiding, she didn't do a journal entry, which messed up Quick Books, so the balance is off that amount. We are also in the middle of an audit, so Kaylee is working with the auditor to make sure YLA does not receive a negative mark on the audit. We cannot approve financials if it does not balance. Usually, the audit is complete by the end of September. Minutes will be approved along with financials at the next meeting.

**Financial Statement:** (see above)

**New Business:** Therapy Dog - W Doodles approached Sandee and wants to partner with YLA for a School Therapy Dog. W Doodles offered to pay for the dog's pet insurance and vaccines. Sandee and her family will keep the dog at her house. The Board will pay for the training portion for him to be certified as a school therapy dog. If the dog fails, The Board will no longer be responsible for the cost. The Board needs to provide a list of what the Board will pay for. Currently, Vince is a 9-week-old BurmaDoodle. He visited school today and did great. He even aided a student with extreme anxiety in going to class. Liability would be covered under a signed waiver by parents, per the Charter District. Our school insurance would cover in case an accident happened on school property. Additionally, there are several other schools in the District that have therapy dogs on campus as well as some in the School District of Pickens County.

Therapy Dogs, once trained, stay put in his/her place until scheduled for working with students. As long as the school is intentional about keeping the dog socialized and in classrooms, he/she will stay trained.

Brainstorm of what Board would pay for: (vote for approval pending information received regarding cost and equipment)

- Training: looking into obedience training being donated (Sandee asking W Doodles)
- Equipment needed at YLA: crate, water bowl, blanket, bed
- Proposed idea – put a monthly budget together to determine Board cost

Continuing with New Business - We need to appoint someone to assume the appointed Educator position.

Suggested Sarah Turpin, a retired educator who does work for College of Ed.

Ballots go out in October for new Board Members and are due October 31. Email names over the next month for the appointed Educator part.

**Old Business:** none at this time

**Principal's Report:** This has been our best start to school since pre-COVID. We have a great 6<sup>th</sup> grade group. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have never had a normal year of middle school, but they are adjusting well and have improved and are phenomenal. The new hires are working out great. Informally, our test scores show that the only time we were not ahead of Pickens County was 6<sup>th</sup> grade math. We knew there was a problem there, and that teacher has been moved to another teaching area. PTO is on fire this year and helping to raise funds.

**Questions, Comments, Concerns:** none at this time

**Executive Session:** none at this time

**Adjournment:** Cathy Moore made motion to adjourn. Betsy Anthony seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

*Catherine R. Moore, Secretary*