

**YLA Board Meeting
04/14/2025**

Board Member Present:

Betsy Anthony - Virtually
Drew Nations
David Orr- Virtually
Tasha Gilstrap
Jason Lucas - Virtually
Michael Sims
Sydney Cox
Nick McClellan

Additional Attendees:

Sandee Blankenship- Director of School Based Programs/Community Outreach
Bryan Lively- Principal, Summit Academy
Nathan Swords- Special Projects

Call to Order: 4:00 pm by Chair- Nick McClellan

Public Input: None

Review of Minutes:

- March 2025 Minutes provided in Drive for review and comment.
- Meeting minutes were discussed but not approved as quorum was not met. Minutes will be voted upon in May 2025 meeting.

Financials:

- March 2025 Financials provided in Drive for review and comment
- Question was made about Therapist line item. It was noted that this line item was applicable to Summit Academy but covered the cost of a student provided therapist.
- Statement was made that YLA and Summits financial formats currently differ, and the teams are working to standardize for ease.
- Financials were discussed but not approved as quorum was not met. Financials will be voted upon in May 2025 meeting.

Old Business:

- The YLA Board Scholarship with \$3,200 pledged:
 - Plan to award 2 Scholarships this year to former YLA alumni- \$1,500 each
 - Received 10 applications
 - 6 applicants were interviewed
 - Winners finalized this week.
 - Email will be sent to all applicants, informing them of the status
 - Remaining \$200 will be put towards next year scholarship fund
 - YLA will invite winners to speak at Awards Night (not required, but welcomed)

New Business: None

Principal Report:

- YLA Administration will embarking on a targeted refocus of the YLA culture for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Noted in self-evaluation sessions during the growth of YLA from 144 to 288 students that enough emphasis hasn't been placed on the unique culture and values established within YLA's Mission.
 - Refocus on accountability of both students and staff will be keen to fostering the continued flourishing of the YLA standards
 - Expectations are and will continue to be in the Handbooks, but targeted focus will be placed on existing and new students in the upcoming year about the importance and consequence for not following expectations
- 8th Grade Dance was a success!
- 5K Run was a success and well attended by staff, students and the community.
 - Approx. \$19k of the \$24.5k target has been raised.
 - Fund go toward Student community project- Handicap Swing Set for Clemson Community
 - Open to any sponsor donations
- Beta Club field trip to Myrtle Beach was a success. Students focused on community service.
- Amazing Shake Competition Finals will be next week, good luck to all participants.

Questions, Comments, Concerns:

- Leadership Pickens County visited YLA campus and came away extremely impressed with the YLA students and program.
- Pickens Chamber of Commerce named YLA Business Member of the Month
 - Mrs. Blankenship did a podcast with Chamber to highlight charter schools

Executive Session: Yes

Adjournment:

- No motion to adjourn was required as quorum was not met.

Minutes Submitted by Drew Nations
YLA Board Secretary