

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2021

Board Members Present (highlighted): Allen Sherwood, Steve Duzan, Cathy Moore, Becky Hooper, Stephanie Price, Jane Hodgkin, Joe Burgett, Trent Frazor, Susan Chapman, Nick McClellan, Jessica Burnett

Others Present: Sandee Blankenship, Principal; Patsy Smith, Director

Call to Order: The YLA board held its monthly meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Steve Duzan, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Public Report: NA

Welcome New Board Members: Board Chair Steve Duzan welcomed the new board members Susan Chapman and Nick McClellan, who introduced themselves to the group.

Previous Month Minutes Approved: Allen Sherwood made motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2020. Dr. Joe Burgett seconded; the Board approved previous meeting minutes unanimously.

Financial Statement: Jane Hodgkin made motion to approve financial statements from November 2020; Stephanie Price seconded; Board approved unanimously.

New business:

- **EOC weight:** Principal Blankenship shared that the SC DoE requested a waiver for End of Course testing for the 2020-2021 school year; however, it has not been approved. Therefore, each District Board must decide the weighting. Because Pickens County has decided at 10% weighting, Principal Blankenship suggested YLA do the same, (after discussing with Josh Christopher, who teaches Algebra I – the only EOC course currently at YLA) as the majority of YLA students feed into Pickens County high schools, and that would put them on equal footing with other feeder schools on their GPAs. After discussion, Stephanie Price made the motion to weight the Algebra I EOC at 10% of students' cumulative grade. Jane Hodgkin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- **Upcoming Lottery:** The lottery for the upcoming 6th grade cohort will be held on February 8 at 6:00 pm. Because of COVID restrictions, the lottery will be streamed through Google classroom. Each family participating in the lottery will be sent a link, which will also be posted on the YLA website for anyone interested in joining.
- **Calendar:** The proposed 2021-22 calendar for Pickens County School District was presented and discussed.
- **New Staff Members for 2021-22:** Principal Blankenship announced that one of the three new hires for Year Two Expansion has been finalized, as Tonya Wilson will fill the

available Leadership position. She also announced that another hire has verbally accepted, and a candidate for the third position is being interviewed this week.

Old Business: Patsy Smith shared the documents from the audit with the Board for their review; YLA cleared the audit with no findings. She also shared with the Board that Jason White of Payne, White & Schmutz, CPA, PA has done audits for YLA since Year One, and performs the audits for Tall Pines STEM Academy, our sister school, as well. The firm also assists with financial questions throughout the year for both schools and has proven to be a valuable resource.

School Report: Principal Sandee Blankenship presented a school report:

To summarize, we are surviving! Jane Hodgkin noted that the system for e-learning with quarantined students is quite impressive. YLA is currently at 8 quarantined students – mostly from positive tests in their immediate families.

The movie field trip in December was very enjoyable and gave students a much-needed return to normalcy.

Currently, YLA is registering 8th graders for the Career Center, conducting IGPs, and preparing for high school registration.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: None

Executive Session: Not necessary

Adjournment: Dr. Burgett made motion to adjourn. Stephanie Price seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Patsy Smith, filling in for

Catherine R. Moore, Secretary