

YLA Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2019

Board Members Present: Mark Mogge, Allen Sherwood, Becky Hooper, Allison Osteen, Lloyd Silva, Matthew Littleton, Steve Duzan, Tim Fuller, Kerry Tucker, Cathy Moore, Stephanie Price

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

Call to Order: The YLA board held its monthly meeting on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Learning Institute Board Room #1. Mark Mogge called the meeting to order. Stephanie Price motioned and Allen Sherwood seconded the motion.

Public Report: None

Previous Month Minutes Approved: Tim Fuller made a motion to approve April minutes, and Stephanie Price made a motion to second.

Financial Statement: Mark Mogge made asked for a motion to accept financial statements, Tim Fuller made motion, Allen Sherwood made a motion to second.

\$15,000 deposit was the first installment of mini grant being used for the classroom boards; \$39,000 deposit for school safety, put with 8000 for keyless entry and buzz-in system

School Report: Sandee Blankenship presented a school report.

7th grade went to Camp Bob Cooper, and the trip was absolutely wonderful. All 7th graders loved it – evaluations were 5/ 5 across the board. It was more of a team building trip rather than standards based. They participated in orienteering, boat rides, and building outdoor shelters. The two teachers who went reported a positive experience for all. Upon returning from break, 7th graders went on a scavenger hunt and breakout room field trip in Greenville, SC; it was a problem-solving based field trip.

Students helped serve food at the annual blue ridge electric annual meeting – served nonstop from 3:00-6:00pm. One thing that was awesome that came of it was a 6th grader who was so impressive – he showed incredible multi-tasking skills and gained confidence. We also had students volunteer at Issaquena and Azalea festivals.

The running club ran in Issaquena Fight for the Flight 5K. One student actually won overall.

We have completed the sex ed. requirement for the state.

Rising 6th grader night – done differently this year; split kids and parents this year. Kids were able to meet each other, and parents were able to hear logistics and details. It was good for parents and students, but it was also good for school faculty.

Board members discussed the value of “family” and “relationships” in school. It was discussed that they are so proud and appreciative of how hard YLA works at creating and maintaining relationships with students. The board encourages the school to continue emphasizing the value of relationships as the school works to expand enrollment. Board members gave positive feedback on the information that was included in rising 6th grader night.

State testing started last week, and we are over half way finished. The only tests left are ELA 2 and EOC reading.

Saturday, 12 of our 8th grade and 7th grade males competed in Cross Fit of the Foothills. Students did a wonderful job and people from the community were bragging on their perseverance.

The week of the 20th – after testing ends, 8th grade dance is Saturday night; annual day, chrome book take back night are coming up; auction is coming for positive behavior points earned throughout the year; house trip to Frankie's Fun park is upcoming; On May 23 & 24 the 8th grade is going to Camp Hannon then going to Carowinds the next morning, May 24th 6th grade going to Aladdin, then the next week we are done – half day on May 31st.

We were able to secure enough money for 6 boards for next year. Money was generated from the following: golf tournament, blue ridge electric meeting, blue ridge fest raffle, chick fil a biscuit sales, school pictures, mini grant. All content classes will receive new boards. Goal was 4 and we were able to get 6.

We received School of Distinction award for our district again this year. That comes with a 1% decrease of what the district keeps for allocation. Letter to the Board was read by Principal Sandee Blankenship.

Question: Is it the top % for all schools or just charter schools? – Yes, all schools, and we typically do better than the top quartile.

New Business: Board has already voted to increase enrollment and electronic make up days; resolution to amend was distributed among Board members for both topics; Director Patsy Smith will include School of Distinction in Resolutions to Amend for both.

Mark Mogge asked for discussion - no discussion was brought forth; he asked for a motion to approve 1st amendment – increasing student population. Stephanie Price made motion to approve and include School of Distinction language; Allen Sherwood made motion to approve electronic make up days amendment, and Allison Osteen made motion to second; unanimous approval for both amendments.

Old Business: ARC grant update: we still have not heard final approval; Director Patsy Smith has a phone conference with Washington tomorrow regarding the scope of work – 3 year process for us and we have matched funding in year three; possibly that the representative in Washington needs clarification on the matched funding in year 3.

Additional update: Director Smith showed a visual of the current plan for buildout. 6th graders will be grouped together & close to office; 7th graders will be behind adult housing close to road; 8th graders will be by large parking lot. Plans for a possible Spanish teacher to teach an intro to Spanish, and if 8th graders qualify – we could offer Spanish 1. We are hoping to not make teachers move more than once in consecutive years if all new buildings are ready at the same time.

Question: Are these buildings already purchased and waiting at Tall Pines? No, but there are some at Tall Pines for their expansion. Most likely, these will be purchased from Spartanburg and moved here.

Question: Are these used buildings? Some will be used and some new.

Question: Will Camp Voyager be using the buildings? No, Camp Voyager has their own classrooms inside the YLI main building

The arrangement of new structures allows us to still have the large field; it will also decrease the car line.

Question: Why is there nothing green in the greenhouse? Dr. Jackson and Ms. Fine are starting that program in the fall. The greenhouse and outdoor classroom area were purchased with an ARC grant.

Director Smith reported that YLI Directors across the institute are also very excited about the expansion of YLA.

Question – Please explain the money received for security. There is a checklist from the state department you have to complete in order to receive funds for a school resource officer; we were missing keyless entry and buzz in system; state department asked for a quote – we gave them a quote on the cost for that, and that’s the money they gave us.

Would a perimeter fence satisfy that? Principal B. was unsure but will check on that. Our issue is not that kids have to have keyless entry, rather students being trapped outside without access to shelter; we are looking at various models used by colleges. Another issue is installation on current doors because of the type of doors we have. Jason Eichelberger with YLI is talking with different organizations and entities about that.

Questions, Comments, Concerns: None

Executive Session: Motion to Start and Motion to Exit

Adjournment: Stephanie Price made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Cathy Moore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Stephanie Price made a motion not to have Board meetings in June and July. Cathy More seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The next Board Meeting will be in August 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine R. Moore

Secretary