



## **1882 Governing Board**

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
126 Thornridge Dr.  
Midland, Texas 79703

### **Present:**

Lynn McBee	Jeanne Preston-Whitman	Laura Doughty
Jennifer Seybert	Dave Joyner	Melissa Ware
Delia McLerran	Elise Kail	Kate Williamson

### **Zoom:**

Dr. Sharonda Pruitt	Koshi Dhingra	Dr. Tanuja Singh
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### **Not present:**

Sonia Rodriguez

### **Agenda:**

#### **I. Call Meeting to Order-Dr. Sharonda Pruitt, Governing Board Chairman**

Dr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

##### **a. Mission Moment-Jennifer Seybert and YWLA Midland Students**

Four students from YWLA Midland, who are currently serving as Ambassadors to the school, presented to the group about the 3 pillars of YWLA; College Readiness, Health & Wellness, and Service Leadership. Each student shared activities and offerings under each of the pillars to the group.

#### **II. Approval of the November 21st Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Sharonda Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Dave Joyner seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

#### **III. Information and Discussion Items**

##### **a. YWPN Partner Update-Lynn Mcee, Chief Executive Officer & Berta Fogerson, Chief Academic & Accountability Officer**

Lynn McBee gave high level updates, including the opening of the 10<sup>th</sup> YWPN school in Aldine ISD. Aldine ISD is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest school district in Houston. The school will be rolled out during the 2021-2022 school year.

Lynn also provided background on YWPN's work with Balch Springs which began five years ago when they opened the Young Women's STEAM Academy at Balch Springs. Business partners in Dallas have expressed interest in doing work with Dallas ISD and YWPN to expand the middle school through high school. The work would start in 2021-2022 and would add a high school grade level per year. Harlingen ISD has reached back out to YWPN about the opportunity of opening a school in South Texas that would serve several school districts.

Berta Fogerson continued with updates and welcomed all those joining us in person and through zoom and introduced two guests from Midland ISD.

**b. Budget Approval Process - Berta Fogerson, YWPN Chief Academic & Accountability Officer**

It was noted that 1882 guidelines require that the Governing Board be involved in the approval of the school budgets in August. Berta will continue to keep in touch with each district to meet timelines and expectations and to insure that compliance deadlines are met. She noted that Budget Committees would be formed to guide the process for each school prior to making recommendations for final board approval. The Governing Board will be approving complete campus budgets and not just 1882 expenditures.

**c. Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a Child Governing Board Training**

Berta informed the Governing Board that they will need to complete training in "Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a Child." Berta provided an overview of the training and the website. She requested that the board complete the training and print their certificates to share with her to keep in the 1882 compliance file. The deadline for completion was set for March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Presentations**

**a. Young Women's Leadership Academy of Midland Campus: Academic Progress Update and Campus Showcase- Jennifer Seybert, Principal**

Dr. Seybert presented information to the board about the YWLA Midland School. She stated that 64% of students enrolled at YWLA came from D or F rated elementary schools. It was reported that 100% of students are on track to be a part of an A rated middle school. Dr. Seybert shared that academic gaps have been identified, but YWLA Midland is committed to closing those gaps through a strategic intervention process for students who require the additional support.

Dr. Seybert showcased the work that is being done under the YWLA pillars as follows:

- 1. College Preparatory Academics:** Every student competed in the Science Fair and several girls have advanced to the next level of competition. In addition, the Destination Imagination teams have been building their projects for competitions and have been doing well. Students also competed and excelled in UIL Academic Competition.
- 2. Community Service:** YWLA has provided opportunities for the girls to sign up for volunteer projects. It was reported that most girls have already completed their hours. The service-learning requirement aligns with the corresponding grade level. Some of the volunteer activities have included: working with dog shelters, babysitting for the elementary school next door during parent meetings, etc. and more. YWLA Midland uses X2 Vol to log the volunteer hours of students.

Koshi Dhingra asked Dr. Seybert if Academics and Service are ever connected. Dr. Seybert mentioned that there are opportunities that are connected and directed to academics as part of the classroom learning experience. Berta Fogerson offered to connect Koshi Dhingra and Dr. Seybert about opportunities with talkSTEM.

Dr. Tanuja Singh also mentioned that there are many girls coming into college that do not have exposure to financial literacy. She noted that working with girls on financial literacy at an early age has a substantial long-term impact. She suggested participating in service leadership activities tied into financial literacy.

- 3. Health & Wellness:** Some of the activities offered under the Health & Wellness Pillar are Swim & Dive, Marathons, Dancing and Sole Sisters Running club. During the physical fitness class, girls have

been equipped with monitors that track their heart rates and exertion levels so they can maintain control of their own fitness.

**4. Special Programs:** Other special programs offered at YWLA include:

- Spelling Bee: The girls ran out of words for the spelling bee! They had to do a tie breaker and kept going and two students will be moving forward.
- Lisa & Laura Ling came to visit the school during a visit to Midland.
- Other opportunities available to the girls are in the arts through orchestra, choir and art classes.

**5. Recruiting:** Dr. Seybert reported that she has begun recruiting and was using the Ambassadors Program to take current students to speak to potential newcomers at their respective schools. So far there have been 182 applications received for 6<sup>th</sup> grade! The school will have 300 students next year. Dr. Seybert interviewed 30 girls from one middle school and mentioned that even during a snowstorm parents and their daughters came to an open house to learn more about the school.

Dr. Pruitt asked a question about the interventions available for students. Dr. Seybert explained that there are several interventions used such as students tracking their own grades and making choices to select specific tutorials during Advisory. It was stated that interventions during advisory are every Tuesday & Friday. There is also before and after school tutoring. Teachers use QR Codes & Google Forms to track the girls and their progress and interventions.

Jeanne Whitman asked what this current board can do to support YWLA Midland during the next opportunity to be included in a bond. Dave Joyner mentioned that the district seems to be moving towards being a “choice district”. With the past bond there were some voter issues. Mr. Joyner also mentioned that Midland has the lowest unemployment in Texas and there were little opportunities for “working people” to vote. Dave Joyner and Kate Williamson are hoping the new bond proposal will be put on the November ballot when there will be opportunity to vote from 7am to 7pm which can change the outcome and affect voter turnout.

**b. San Antonio’s Young Women’s Leadership Academy Secondary: Academic Progress Update and Campus Showcase- Delia McLerran, Head of Schools**

Delia McLerran presented data from assessments done in January to predict how students will perform on the STARR test and AP exams. She addressed overall student performance noting that students have performed above expectations on the simulation exams. She explained that the preliminary data revealed that student performance was exceeding the expectations set forth in the Partnership Agreement. The data was reviewed by staff and steps are under way to provide students with support in order to meet advanced performance levels during spring testing.

Ms. McLerran was asked about the types of summer opportunities available for students to continue their academic growth. She described several opportunities available for students to participate in summer camps, internships, college visits, and summer learning, etc.

Delia McLerran was asked about the science sequence at YWLA Secondary. She responded that biology, chemistry, physics and AP science courses offered as electives (AP Physics, AP Bio, AP Environmental) are all available to students. Ms. McLerran also mentioned that there are four teachers on her campus who are College Board Readers.

**c. San Antonio's Young Women's Leadership Academy Primary: Academic Progress Update and Campus Showcase- Delia McLerran, Head of Schools**

Since STAAR is not a testing option until 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, the MAP assessment is used for Kindergarten and 1st grade as a method for assessing student progress. The data indicates that the standards set forth in the 1882 Partnership Agreement have been met, but there is a concerted effort to grow students beyond what is expected. The data shows that reading scores dropped due to a teacher going on maternity leave, but the scores are expected to go up with targeted intervention. Mrs. McLerran also stated that YWLA Primary has developed an SEL rubric to track how the students are doing because they believe it is important to focus on the whole child.

Delia McLerran also discussed different opportunities for students to receive academic support such as AVID, the use of graphic organizers, and access to technology to learn how to read through a literacy program.

In continuation with the YWLA Secondary and Primary Showcase, Ms. McLerran discussed learning strategies and instructional approaches and highlighted several programs, contests and various opportunities in which the students have excelled. She shared a video highlight of Maria Garcia who is a current senior who has been awarded full scholarship to MIT.

[https://www.kens5.com/article/news/education/kids-who-makes-sa-great-curious-san-antonio-teen-heading-to-mit/273-704a3cdf-f52f-4a38-a1e7-cfdb46868858?fbclid=IwAR3KK-7EaAeTU-aGJRozT\\_SSDu9prXmmxKki3Qja\\_YBREY4GSgkCKF6CVos](https://www.kens5.com/article/news/education/kids-who-makes-sa-great-curious-san-antonio-teen-heading-to-mit/273-704a3cdf-f52f-4a38-a1e7-cfdb46868858?fbclid=IwAR3KK-7EaAeTU-aGJRozT_SSDu9prXmmxKki3Qja_YBREY4GSgkCKF6CVos)

Ms. McLerran also highlighted that students at YWLA Secondary have:

- 100% Completed FAFSA
- 100% Applied to colleges
- 100% completed SAT/ACT'20
- 100% Completed ACT and SAT School Day testing
- 2019 Scholarship total: 17.3 million in merit based.
- College Acceptances: MIT, Brown, Notre Dame, UT Austin, Texas A&M, Trinity, Rice University
- 24/51 Seniors earned AP Scholar recognition from College Board

Ms. McLerran also shared some of their college readiness data and highlighted that YWLA secondary students performed higher than the district, state and national average in reading/Writing, Math, and overall composite SAT score.

Ms. McLerran provided a recruitment update for both primary and secondary. She shared that they were already full in kinder and first grade; in 6<sup>th</sup> they have 265 applications for 129 seats; 7<sup>th</sup> has one open seat and 49 applicants; 8<sup>th</sup> has 30 applicants for 12 seats; and 9<sup>th</sup> has 52 applicants for 12 seats.

Jeanne Whitman asked, "What kind of support do the students attending these schools get?" Delia McLerran mentioned that there are a lot of students that are in the area are there to support them and Berta Fogerson added that there are 3 other YWPN students at MIT from the YWPN network to support Maria at MIT.

Alumnae come back in December and January to talk to current students about their experiences in college which helps students understand from the first-hand experience of their sisters. Ms. McLerran shared that the support of alumnae is valuable and adds to the success of students. Koshi Dhingra suggested having more opportunities for current students to interact with alumnae using technology.

**V. Action Items**

Approval of Budget Committee Members: Berta Fogerson explained that members will have to work in individual committees for each of the schools to support the budget work before the final budget is

presented in August. Committees will be composed of the different stakeholders from each of the communities. Midland would be composed of Dave Joyner, Kate Williamson, Jennifer Seybert and Berta Fogerson. San Antonio will be composed of Jeanne Whitman, Berta Fogerson, Sonia Rodriguez and Delia McLerran.

**Action:** Dave Joyner motioned to approve the assigned committees as presented. Jeanne Whitman seconded the motion; the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Sharonda Pruitt took the opportunity to thank Dr. Tanuja Singh for her service and congratulate her for her new role at Loyola New Orleans which will be starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> when she will be stepping down from the board.

Dr. Pruitt adjourned the meeting at 12:54pm

**Next Meeting:**

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in San Antonio  
Young Women's Leadership Academy Primary Campus  
401 Berkshire Ave  
San Antonio, Texas**