



**1882 Governing Board  
May 2020 Meeting**

**Present via Zoom:**

Lynn McBee  
Jeanne Whitman  
Kate Williamson  
Betty Burks

Jennifer Seybert  
Dr. Sharonda Pruitt  
Elise Kail  
Berta Fogerson

Dr. Koshi Dhingra  
Dave Joyner  
Delia McLerran

**Not Present:**

Sonja Rodriguez

**Agenda:**

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

- Dr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 11:34am. Dr. Pruitt welcomed Betty Burks to the 1882 Governance Board.

**II. Mission Moment-San Antonio Class of 2020 Highlights**

- Ms. McLerran shared pictures from the recent Senior Drive-by which was sponsored by San Antonio Education Foundation. Regardless of the current circumstances, Ms. McLerran and her team want to continue to honor the school's traditions for the students.

**III. Approval of February 2020 Meeting Minutes**

- Dr. Pruitt called for a motion to approve the minutes. At 11:37, Dave Joyner seconded the motion for approval. At 11:37, all voted to approve the minutes.

**IV. Information and Discussion Items**

- **YWPN Partner Update-Lynn McBee, Chief Executive Officer & Berta Fogerson, Chief Academic & Accountability Officer**  
Ms. McBee commented on the fact that it has been an interesting road for YWPN and YWPN schools since March with the spread of COVID-19. YWPN has been in touch with all schools and is supporting them with resources as they need them.

Ms. McBee shared preliminary data for seven of the YWPN schools with graduating classes. Across the Network, 72% of students are first generation to go to college (88% in Dallas and 83% in Grand Prairie) and 24% are first generation to graduate from high school.

Ms. McBee stated that as of the May meeting, the 352 seniors in the Class of 2020 had already earned close to 60 million dollars in academic and merit scholarships. San Antonio's 49 seniors had already earned 19.3 million dollars and the total was still rising. In the seven schools, over 2000 different college acceptances were received by students.

Ms. McBee also shared that YWPN schools had recently been highlighted on both US News and Washington Post for their top rankings across the country and in Texas.

Ms. McBee noted that schools have been hosting Virtual Signing Days across the Network. She shared that she had just participated in the YWPN Commencement for North Texas schools with Cynt Marshal from the Dallas Mavericks and shared that on the following day students would be honored with a big gift delivery. She added that Dallas had recently had a virtual graduation and that some of the Network schools, like San Antonio, Grand Prairie and Lubbock would be having in-person graduations.

The board was informed by Ms. McBee that there were still plans to open a school in Aldine ISD in 2021-2022. She also explained that the work between Dallas ISD and YWPN on the Young Women's STEAM Academy at Balch Springs would-be put-on pause for 6 months to a year due to COVID -19.

Ms. McBee thanked Betty Burke for joining the board and welcomed her.

- **Budget Approval & Board Training Update- Berta Fogerson, YWPN Chief Academic and Accountability Officer**

Ms. Fogerson welcomed Betty Burks to the board and stated she looked forward to introducing her in person to everyone else. She thanked everyone who has completed their board training and sent her the certificates and asked anyone who had not sent in their certificates to email them to her.

- **2020 Accountability and SB 1882 Partnership Progress Measures-Berta Fogerson, YWPN Chief Academic and Accountability Officer.**

Ms. Fogerson noted that districts have had to shift their focus to address other matters creating a pause on some of the budget development processes; therefore, committees will meet to review budgets throughout the summer and the board will come together in August to approve the final budgets. Ms. Fogerson stated she would send information to Budget Committees to review and make recommendations prior to the August meeting.

State accountability process for 2020 testing has been cancelled. As of the last board meeting, all schools had met the accountability goals. Ms. Fogerson stated that she anticipated that the requirement to meet a performance measure will be waived for schools for the 2019-2020 academic year and waived for the 1882 partnerships. She informed the board that schools were on track to have a very successful first year.

Both principals were asked to present on their spring semester and discuss how pivoted the work to support their campuses during the pandemic. It was noted that YWPN Principals have collaborated and supported each other over the last few months. YWPN created a portal to support and share resources with principals to support the schools during the transition into virtual education.

Jeanne Whitman asked who makes the call about waiving SB 1882 Accountability? TEA? District? Ms. Fogerson responded that state has waived accountability, but it is part of the SB 1882 agreement and has not been addressed directly, but the information to support the goals being met is available.

## **V. Presentations: Meeting the Needs of Students, Teachers, and Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dr. Pruitt welcomed Jennifer Seybert to introduce her presentation.

### **a. Young Women's Leadership Academy of Midland Campus- Dr. Jennifer Seybert presented the following information:**

Midland went on Spring Break on March 6<sup>th</sup> and never returned to school. YWLA was already a 1-to-1 technology campus; therefore, girls were able to start learning right away. Students received additional materials through a school drive-through on campus or by dropping off materials directly to students' homes.

For YWLA Midland, Advisory became one of the most important parts of the day, students and teachers met every day for 30 minutes to remain in constant communication and be supportive to students. During advisory, students practiced mindfulness, received announcements, and participated in fun activities with each other. Dr. Seybert previewed one of the schedules with the board in which students continued block scheduling. Through advisory, the school let students know which classes would be happening that day and when classes would be going live. Dr. Seybert and her team realized very quickly how important it was for girls to continue with electives and prepared a virtual orchestra performance and continued to offer other non-core courses. Videos of the teachers, counselors, and administrators were highlighted during advisory to encourage the school community to remain in touch.

Dr. Seybert and her team also created a series of Facebook challenges to keep everyone connected, as well as, hosted challenges, talks and events to maintain a sense of community. Amanda Muhammad, a YWPN partner taught trauma-informed mindfulness to the students and YWLA Midland incorporated mindfulness into their schedule every morning. Dr. Seybert was excited to have more than 90% of the students attend advisory every week.

Midland published what students were doing and learning and provided updates for parents to help them understand what students were being asked to complete. Lessons were recorded for those students who could not participate live in the classes because they were taking care of siblings or did not have access to “live time.” Work was not graded, but it was reviewed, and feedback was given to students.

YWLA Midland hosted events on Wednesday Nights like The Price is Right, “What are you reading?” and Disney Trivia Night. Overall, YWLA Midland made the most of it. YWLA Midland did an end-of-the-year drive-through awards ceremony, hosted a virtual performance of their orchestra, and engaged the Spanish language students with online conversations to maintain their practice. The YWLA Midland Counselor did Lunch Bunch sessions with students, a practice that was in place before Spring Break, and they continued it.

**Welcoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students & new students:**

YWLA Midland sent students “confetti filled” letters to welcome them to the school for the fall of 2020. Dr. Seybert stated that YWLA Midland has very strong, quality students returning in the fall. These are students who are motivated and excited to be learning and needed someone to recognize that in them. Dr. Seybert interviewed over 400 hundred students and 105 students were chosen to join the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of 2020-2021.

Dr. Seybert reported that new buildings are being constructed, and there will be a new wing of classrooms, a library, and a new parking lot. Ms. McLerran asked if the new buildings would be modular. Dr. Seybert responded that they were going to be modular, but the inside was beautiful and high quality. Dr. Seybert and her team picked out furniture for the new library which will serve as both a library and media center.

Dr. Seybert announced that the school would be getting book vending machines. YWLA Midland partnered with the Midland Education Foundation to purchase them for the school. The girls will receive tokens that they can use to earn books from the vending machines. YWLA Midland customized the vending machines with the school logo.

Ms. McBee asked how many different elementary schools the students were coming from for next school year. Dr. Seybert responded that there were 25 elementary schools from which they received applicants. She took current student ambassadors with her to each school she gave a presentation. Dr. Seybert said that elementary school goes through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Midland, so they presented to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders since they had open spots in the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. They finished recruitment prior to Spring Break and were able to do all their tours on the campus. They have only had to do orientation virtually for the girls who were accepted to the school.

Dr. Dhingra congratulated Dr. Seybert for all the work that she has done since COVID-19 hit and the way she has kept the families engaged. Dr. Dhingra asked if there were summer programs available? Dr. Seybert said the school was not able to host summer programming and that it is not currently required. Dr. Dhingra mentioned some resources from her organization that were available for students to use. Berta Fogerson let everyone know these resources have been shared through the collaborative folder. Dr. Dhingra offered to provide her resources for free.

Kate Williamson asked about how grading will impact and be reflected in the students’ transcripts. Dr. Seybert said that YWLA would be following the grading guidelines MISD had set by averaging the students’ semester grades. Dr. Seybert said she was not as worried about the grades as much as she was worried if they had mastered the content.

Ms. Fogerson asked Dr. Seybert how many students she took for next year and if she had taken more than 100 per grade level? Dr. Seybert said she took 105 6<sup>th</sup> graders and since so many 7<sup>th</sup> graders applied, she had 140 in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. She did not have that many 8<sup>th</sup> grade applicants so that class size is only 65 students. Since COVID-19, the oil industry has been impacted, families are leaving the area but when a spot opens, it is filled with another girl from the wait list.

Ms. McLerran asked when Midland would be opening for the next school year. Dr. Seybert said the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, but it may be with an innovative calendar, as early as August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**b. San Antonio’s Young Women’s Leadership Academy Primary and Secondary-Delia McLerran, Head of Schools presented the following information:**

Students' last day of school before Spring Break was March 5<sup>th</sup>. Teachers came back to school March 16<sup>th</sup> to plan how they would be teaching and on March 19<sup>th</sup> materials and electronics began to be deployed to students. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, YWLA started instruction through one Zoom class per course involving synchronous instruction that was recorded so students could access later because some of them had become care takers to younger siblings. Students in both primary and secondary were given one grade per week and the secondary schedule went as follows:

- Morning classes: Monday: Math; Tuesday: Social Studies; Wednesday ELA; Thursday Science and Friday SEL.
- Afternoon classes: Teachers were available to help students who needed additional instruction.

San Antonio is not a 1-to-1 district and many students did not have devices or internet. YWLA worked with the district to provide hotspots for the students. YWLA used Zoom and Google Classroom as platforms to teach students. On March 30<sup>th</sup> YWLA began to track attendance and students had to complete a task to count as present. In April, teachers sent home progress reports to the students. YWLA used first semester grades for transcripts and did not calculate the second semester into the GPA for ranking.

Ms. McLerran shared some of the things they were focusing on to build a sense of community and to keep students engaged. Students and their families were invited to participate in yoga class and other SEL activities. Mindfulness sessions were held each week at both the primary and secondary schools for families to join.

Primary students used the platform, SeeSaw, for online learning, while secondary students had a laptop and used either Google Classroom or Zoom platforms. On Fridays after class meetings, students would continue with afterschool clubs, while primary students had a book read to them by a city council rep or an author.

Ms. McLerran wanted to maintain connections with YWLA Primary and the YWLA Secondary schools and purposely created opportunities for students to interact with each other in a variety of ways. Teachers spotlighted seniors on social media using Twitter and Facebook. Teachers hosted coffee meetings with students and tried to maintain some sense of tradition with seniors.

YWLA primary teacher, Ms. Rodriguez, went to every student's home to read them a book from her car in the driveway and dropped off a basket of goodies. The kindergarten parents really wanted to have a graduation for the kindergarten class, so they were sending in pictures of their children in caps and gowns to be highlight on social media. YWLA also had a series of virtual workshops for parents, supporting their daughters' literacy development via Zoom.

YWLA had an Adopt-a-Senior Program, but for the sake of safety and privacy, it was only open for the Cardinal Family to adopt them. Seniors filled out a wish list and then met with the individual who adopted them using social distancing guidelines. YWLA sent home awards recognizing AB honor roll, perfect attendance, and academic achievement that parents posted on social media.

The Principal Awards were given out at the schools by Ms. McLerran and Ms. Arzamendi in a drive-through ceremony. There was 100% engagement with every student and parent through virtual learning. Ms. McLerran stated they followed the senior traditions of senior luncheons, as well as senior signing day. The primary students were highlighted with "student of the week." Ms. McLerran highlighted one of the senior girls, the Salutatorian, who will be attending MIT in the fall. Another presentation was hosted by Dr. Barbara Taylor who gave information sessions on COVID-19 to give accurate information, as well as links to resources for parents.

#### **Next Steps:**

Ms. McLerran said they were currently gathering information from parents to share with the SAISD. Some options that SAISD is considering:

- AM/PM classes with 2 groups of students rotating in and out from either morning or afternoon classes
- Rotating days MW group 1. TTH Group 2, Friday would be a half day for each group
- A 4-day week, starting at 7:30 and ending at 5:30 with Friday off
- An intercessional calendar with school starting June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Other options would be to add weeks to different months September, November, and March, or to make every other Friday in certain months intercession days in which teachers could teach students during intercession days for supplemental pay. Focus on Fridays would be to address student challenges.

**Challenges:**

Parents could opt to keep their daughters at home for virtual learning and teacher fatigue is a concern for online teaching. Anxiety is at a high for teachers, parents, and students, so YWLA's priority focus is social emotional well-being for everyone. Ms. McLerran highlighted that it would be important to have a balance between providing strong quality education that parents want, while also keeping balance for teachers and students.

Dr. Dhingra asked a question for Ms. McLerran about teacher fatigue and the importance of shifting the views of "remote learning" and what it looks like. Ms. McLerran explained that they have started the conversation with teachers about what remote learning looks like and that it does not have to mean "looking at a screen," but what you can do at home and beyond. They are talking to the district about what remote learning is and how it can be defined. Ms. McLerran stated that there is a concern with having students on computers the whole time. Dr. Dhingra offered to help in any way she could. Ms. McLerran said she wanted to make sure that play time is included for all kids, especially at the primary grade level.

**Highlights:**

YWLA had 49 out of 49 students meet college readiness in four core areas. YWLA received 361 Chromebooks that they will be able to keep. Teachers did a great job of pivoting and adapting to the situation.

Ms. Burkes posed a question about when learning can happen, does it have to be at a certain time, or is there a flexibility about the hours. Ms. McLerran has posed the question to the district as to if primary and secondary students can be on different schedules and the schools may have some wiggle room, but if the option is a morning/afternoon schedule, then both primary and secondary must attend at the same due to cafeteria needs. Ms. McLerran mentioned that YWLA is pushing for different schedules for elementary and secondary schools.

All AP testing was completed, and Ms. McLerran stated she was eager to see how the scores come back. It was reported SAISD will conduct graduation in a stadium and that Betty Burkes would be present. The students will be allowed 2 guests and the girls will not be allowed to wear heels and there will not be a rehearsal.

The Science Department donated gloves and masks to Centro Med Clinic, giving new meaning to "Stronger Together" and the "Power of Us".

It was reported that seniors were shifting where they would be attending college because of COVID-19. One student was going to the University of Washington but changed her plans and would now be going to UT-Austin, another student who was going to Notre Dame would now going to UT-Austin. Berta Fogerson mentioned this was happening across the Network. Ms. Fogerson stated that YWPN respected these decisions and anticipates that this will be happening more and more.

**VI. Questions and Comments:**

- Dr. Pruitt thanked the principals for their great presentations and mentioned that as a board they should focus on making sure they continue to push their students on the college track. Dr. Pruitt asked for any questions or comments. The following information was shared:
  - Betty Burkes commented on the four C's: Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Critical Thinking, and what a great model the principals have provided.
  - Ms. Fogerson shared that the meeting schedule had been sent to all the board members for the 2020-2021 calendar and she will follow up with meeting invites and updates on whether these will take place virtually or at the campuses.

**VII. Meeting Adjournment:**

- Next Meeting will be August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Meeting Adjourned at 12:56pm