



## 1882 Governing Board

November 19, 2020 Meeting

### Present Via Zoom:

Lynn McBee  
Jeanne Whitman  
Betty Burks  
Sharonda Pruitt  
Berta Fogerson

Jennifer Seybert  
Kate Williamson  
Elise Kail  
Delia McLerran

Sonia Rodriguez  
Dave Joyner  
Andrea Pitts  
Regina Arzamendi

**Staff:** Katie Albritton, Jennifer Evans,

### Agenda:

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

- Dr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 11:31am

#### II. Mission Moment-Jennifer Seybert, WYLA Midland

- Jennifer Seybert showed 2 videos of what the classroom looked like in 2020. The first video showed the girls in different classrooms, science lab, library, orchestra, and robotics. The second video showed a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and a 7<sup>th</sup> grader discussing what YWLA meant to them. All the students and teachers wore masks.

#### III. Approval of the August 2020 Meeting Minutes

- Dr. Pruitt made the motion to approve the August meeting minutes. At 11:36, Jeanne Whitman seconded the motion for approval. At 11:36 all voted to approve the minutes.

#### IV. Information and Discussion Items

##### A. YWPN Partner Update

##### Lynn McBee, Chief Executive Officer

Ms. McBee thanked the YWPN team for taking on more responsibilities and cutting expenses. She announced that the audit was just completed, and the organization is in a strong financial position. YWPN team present in today's: Katie Albritton, Jennifer Evans, and Berta Fogerson.

Ms. McBee reported that Aldine school will be the 10<sup>th</sup> school and will open the fall of 2021. Jericah Jackson is the new principal for the Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy. Jericah is young, enthusiastic, and passionate about the school.

An update on the 1882 process for YWLA in Fort Worth was shared. YWPN just received notice that they are currently in Phase 2 of the partnership process, having received a letter with a score card and comments that all looked very positive. Lynn mentioned that in the event that YWPN is approved as

an 1882 within FWISD, this would change current composition of this board, as new members will be added, as well as Tamara Albury, the Principal of YWLA Forth Worth.

Ms. McBee was pleased to announce that YWCPA in Houston school received the Blue Ribbon this year. She also shared Children at Risk, an organization out of Houston, published their annual school ratings for Texas schools, and multiple YWPN campuses made the list. This year they added a racial equity component and COVID. The rankings for YWPN campuses are below:

- The North Texas Region- Irma Rangel #1 Racial Equity and #1 Best Performing Schools in the region
- West Texas Region- Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders in Lubbock was ranked #4 Best Performing
- West Texas Region Middle schools-YWLA in Ysleta was ranked #1 Best Performing
- Central Texas Region- Ann Richards school in Austin- #2 Best Performing

Ms. McBee noted that on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Children at Risk will release the San Antonio and Houston area ratings.

This completed the report from Ms. McBee and Dr. Pruitt called on Berta Fogerson to deliver her report:

#### **B. YWPN Update, Berta Fogerson, Chief Academic Officer**

Ms. Fogerson reported that goal setting and beginning of year (BOY) TPESS conferences were completed with Delia McLerran and Jennifer Seybert.

Berta also shared the following updates:

- Training and Recertification had been completed for TPESS since the appraisal process is going to change. This required that she undergo new training for recertification.
- She continues to attend 1882 Partner Convenings in SAISD; the district offers lots of support to YWPN as a partner to keep them up to date and aware of everything required of 1882 partners
- The YWPN audit has been submitted to both districts--San Antonio, and Midland--to show that YWPN is a viable partner meeting 1882 compliance measures.

Ms. Fogerson stated that YWPN continues to receive direction from TEA to forge ahead with spring testing, but at this time, the format of future testing is still unknown. The partnership will continue to do the work to hit the targets that the schools have been charged with hitting as 1882 partners.

There are several challenges being faced by principals across the Network schools. There will be gaps in learning, and Ms. Fogerson reported that YWPN is trying to provide teachers with essential support to maximize student learning. Some schools have large population of on campus learners and some campuses have only partial student body attendance on campus, while some campuses are still all virtual. In spite of the challenges, Ms. Fogerson stated that she is confident that our schools, teachers and students will rise above and continue to achieve at high levels.

With regard to providing programming and support to the schools, Ms. Fogerson shared that there is no "one size fits all" type of support or service for the Network to provide, as each has different needs at this time. The staff at YWPN has been working to restructure their work in order to serve each school in the best way possible. Ms. Fogerson reported that over the summer and fall, YWPN has

provided a number of different virtual opportunities for students from across the Network: STEM collaboratives, guest speakers, career panels, as well as national civic engagement programming.

In addition to the virtual opportunities provided to students, it was reported that the YWPN Principals were brought together twice virtually to collaborate with ideas, strategies and best practices relating to academics and scheduling, as well as supporting the social and emotional wellness of teachers and students. Additionally, the Rice Institute was offered virtually this fall for AP teachers to access training from their homes. Three teachers from each school were provided the opportunity to receive this AP training.

Berta then shared the 2020-2021 Performance Goals for each 1882 campus. These goals are as follows:

- **Midland**
  - The campus will earn a minimum “C” rating as a campus and in the progress domain
  - 60% Meets or Exceeds in Reading and Math STAAR
  - 50% Meets or Exceeds in Reading and Math STARR for Economically Disadvantaged Students population
  - 80% of Students will be reading above at or above grade level based on Reading Screening results
  - 20% or less performance gap between sub- population on STAAR performance

Berta commented that Jennifer will address how they plan to reach these goals in her report.

- **YWLA Primary in San Antonio**
  - 45% will perform at or above the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile on MAP Reading<sup>1</sup>
  - 40% will perform at or above the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile on MAP Math
  - 28% will perform at or above the 61<sup>st</sup> percentile on MAP Reading
  - 23% will perform at or above the 61<sup>st</sup> percentile on MAP Math
  - 40% will meet growth on MAP Reading
  - 37% will meet growth on MAP Math
- **YWLA San Antonio**
  - Will sustain A Rating Campus and Progress Domain
  - 94% Meets on STARR End of Course (EOC) exams
  - 98% Graduation Rate
  - 100 % College CR Standard
  - 76% Dual Credit Earned
  - 98% College Ready: as deemed by English Language Arts SAT
  - 91% College Ready: as deemed by Math SAT
  - 70% MET AP Criteria
  - 91% Meet Growth Measured by STARR/EOC performance
  - 97% College Career Military Readiness standard based on STARR/EOC performance

Berta welcomed questions at this point. She reiterated that Jennifer and Delia have done wonderful work in maintaining the academic expectations that will allow them to reach the expected goals.

---

<sup>1</sup> MAP is administered at the beginning, middle and end of each year

Delia asked to make a comment about the College Readiness: she stated that their students have met the college readiness indicator through TSI, but for SAT and ACT it's going to look different this year because many opportunities were taken away due to COVID.

Ms. Fogerson then moved on to report an update regarding the Lonestar Governance Training. She explained that she has been informed by SAISD that when YWLA Primary opened it was given a startup grant, which was a significant amount of funding that helped to get that school off the ground. Part of the requirement for the grant was that the 1882 Board would have to engage in Lonestar Governance Training. Ms. Fogerson stated that she believes this will be a beneficial training as TEA has not provided a comprehensive training for 1882 board members at this point. She was unaware that this was a requirement of the grant, but in order to keep the funds the training needs to be completed by the end of the school year and there needs to be 100% Board participation.

The following was shared about the training:

- The Purpose is to provide coaching and support through a continues-improvement framework, for school governing teams that choose and commit to intensively focus on the objective to improve student outcomes.
- Lone Star Governance accomplishes this through tailored coaching. Aligned to the five pillars Of the Texas Framework for the School Board Development, which targets:
  - Vision
  - Accountability
  - Structure
  - Advocacy
  - Unity

The intention to the Lone Star workshop is to create a space where the Board comes together to focus on this mission of student outcomes and how to improve them. The workshop centers around conversation and best practices about school board behaviors that improve student outcomes. The underlying belief is that leadership matters and the leader's choices have the power to be transformative in the lives of our students.

Ms. Fogerson reported that she wanted to give the board advance notice so that everyone can be cognizant of the time frame for completion, as the training needs to be completed by the end of May, and with COVID she will need feedback to understand everyone's comfort level with traveling to Dallas. She explained that YWPN would cover the travel expenses and hotel accommodations and host the training at the YWPN offices—where there is plenty of space to spread out and socially distance.

She said that she has recommendations for two trainers and needs to determine when they are available to lead the training and asked for suggestions from the Board to how they would like to proceed—ie determining which days of the week and time of year would be best.

In the Zoom chat box Betty Burks said that a Friday-Saturday training would be her preference and the spring semester would be best. Kate Williamson responded in the chat that Friday-Saturday works for her too. Berta concluded that will send out a Doodle Survey to identify the best timeframe for everyone and then follow up with trainers to determine their availability.

Ms. Fogerson then opened it up for questions. Ms. McLerran asked if a virtual option for the Lonestar Governance training would be a consideration? Ms. Fogerson responded that she had asked, and she

was informed that the training must be in person. Jeanne Whitman asked if it was full two 8-hours days. Ms. Fogerson responded that she has not received an agenda yet, but that it is an intensive training and is unsure. Ms. Whitman commented that she agreed with Ms. Burk's suggestion of doing the training on a Friday and Saturday in the late spring. Sharonda Pruitt stated that a Friday and Saturday in May would be her preference. Ms. Fogerson agreed to try to book this training as late as possible in the spring. She stated that she does not believe that school administrators will need to attend.

Ms. Fogerson concluded her report. Dr. Pruitt asked Delia McLerran to share her report.

## V. Campus Presentations

**Ms. McLerran** introduced the principals from both campuses: Regina Arzamendi from YWLA Secondary and Andrea Pitts from YWLA Primary, as well as her administrator intern, Christopher Herrera. Each administrator shared a brief background about their experiences as educators.

Ms. McLerran asked Ms. Arzamendi and Ms. Pitts to share on the current state of each campus.

**a. YWLA Secondary-** Mrs. Arzamendi shared the following information:

- In-class student enrollment is at 21% with 123 students and 46 students on the wait list to return to in person learning.
- Teachers have a flipped classroom model and are teaching via zoom and are learning to use new systems called canvas and frontline.
- Teachers are worried about the students' social emotional and wellness, especially the students that are learning virtually.
- In an effort to maintain a sense of connection with the students, YWLA is keeping up their regular traditional events such as Big Sis/ Lil Sis, Fall Fest, Trunk or Treat with the YWLA Primary students, Senior ring ceremony, Navy to Red transition from MS students to HS, Pink Rose ceremony for the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ms. McLerran commented that keeping these traditions has also been very important for the parents as well and thanked Principal Arzamendi for all of her efforts. She introduced Ms. Pitts at YWLA Primary.

**b. YWLA Primary-**Ms. Pitts to provided the following update on YWLA Primary:

- Ms. Pitts reported that 165 students are learning remotely (61% of their student population), leaving 105 students reporting to campus for in-person-learning.
- Ms. Pitts shared that they are monitoring attendance for both remote and in-person students and their average daily attendance (ADA) is above the district goal, which is 95%, theirs is 97%.
- Concerns of learning gaps for some students have prompted a school wide intervention program. The schedule has been changed to allow everyone to provide intervention. Virtual students are being served as tier 3 students.<sup>2</sup> Programs used are "Really Great Reading" and a Math program that is based off the standards and MAP data from the beginning of the year. This data is used when the teachers meet weekly to talk about student data that includes social emotional data, as well as academic data. Teachers are using a teach tracker each week to report if the student has met, mastered or did not meet the grade level standard.

---

<sup>2</sup> Tier 1 students is the term for students who are performing at or above grade level, while tier 3 students are those that perform grossly below grade level.

**A YWLA overview was provided by Ms. McLerran and included the following points:**

- YWLA students are scoring above district and national norms in SAT composite, English Reading and Writing and Math. She reiterated that typically students will take both the SAT and the ACT. She announced that as of Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 100% of the YWLA students had met the college readiness standard according to the TSI (a college admission test used for college readiness tracking in SAISD).
- Ms. McLerran showed a sample of the MTSS that Ms. Pitts had mentioned in her report to show the Board how the tracking system works. She mentioned how important the MTSS tracking is. She also shared a link to data for the YWLA Primary intervention.
- YWLA’s 2020 SAT Scores were presented. Mrs. McLerran explained the importance of their test scores outranking those of the national, state and district norms, as this where their students will have opportunities for college admissions and scholarships.

|             | Total Composite | English Reading Writing | Math       |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| National    | 1039            | 528                     | 511        |
| State       | 1009            | 511                     | 497        |
| District    | 919             | 470                     | 449        |
| <b>YWLA</b> | <b>1175</b>     | <b>584</b>              | <b>591</b> |

- She stated that the biggest challenges for YWLA has been hybrid teaching. Other challenges that the campuses are facing include: slow hotspots for internet use, college students learning from home—some are having to teach younger siblings, teacher laptops crashing. YWLA Primary is also having issues with technology, internet connectivity, faulty thermometers, high need for face shields as the number of in-person students grows and staffing as teachers are ill or quarantining
- Using 1882 funds, YWLA was able to purchase new laptops for teachers.<sup>3</sup>
- Additionally, YWLA has a teacher vacancy in Tech Apps/CS/Engineering, which Ms. McLerran reported she has been working with Ms. Fogerson and YWPN to come up with a creative solution to this issue. She and Ms. Fogerson are looking to possibly contract out an educator that can cover vacancies virtually for various YWPN campuses.

**Campus Celebrations Report:**

- Ms. Pitts shared that YWLA Primary had a tree planting ceremony in partnership with Gardophia, a local nonprofit, in which in which 50 families planted 50 trees and built 3 garden beds. This will grow into a nature-based learning program in the future. The school hosted a parade in which students dressed up as “Career Women/Change Makers,” and a STEAM Career Fair. The school’s cafeteria earned a 100% on their inspection and 2 staff members received grants SAISD Foundation.
- Ms. Arzamendi announced that YWLA had 4 seniors designated as National Hispanic Scholars and one student designated as a National Indigenous Scholar, all five scoring in the top 2.5% on the PSAT.

---

<sup>3</sup> They have replaced 17 teacher laptops using 1882 funds.

- Ms. Arzamendi shared the following student accomplishments/recognitions: Sara Garcia, was selected to the Mayor’s Youth Engagement Council for Climate Initiatives, Bennett Smith was selected as the Outreach Coordinator for the San Antonio Girl Up Coalition, Caroline Esquivel was selected to sing with Metropolitan Opera in NYC, Miamor Orozco was selected to the NASA High School Aerospace Scholars Program, Sophia Ortiz was selected for the PBS New House Student Reporting Lab Program
- The YWLA Foundation received a 75,000-dollar grant from San Antonio Impact Grant, which will help with laptop replacement.
- The SAISD bond<sup>4</sup> passed and both campuses will be receiving bond funds. Lynn McBee asked what the bond funds will be used for at each campus. Ms. McLerran responded that they will begin a complete overhaul for the secondary school building to add more classrooms with construction starting in the next 2 to 3 years. For the Primary campus, they will be adding 5 classrooms annually year until it reached its model k-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Dr. Pruitt asked Jennifer Seybert to give her report.

**c. Young Women’s Leadership Academy Midland-**Dr. Seybert provided the following update:

- The first few weeks of school 100% of students were learning virtual. By September 1<sup>st</sup>, the students were back on campus for 2 days a week. As of now, Dr. Seybert shared, all students are back on campus 5 days a week.
- In September construction to the new buildings was not finished, so 5 classrooms were located next door on a MISD elementary school for 6 weeks. Out of the 300 YWLA, 25 are participating in the Midland Online Academy.
- YWLA has had only 1 student and 1 staff member case of COVID, but on any given day 30 to 40 students may be quarantined because of exposure to someone who had COVID.
- **Performance Goals:** Dr. Seybert explained that because they did not get to finish year 1, the campus has no state accountability; none of the students have STAAR tested as YWLA students. She shared the following data from a beginning of the year (BOY) assessment given to the students while still remote learning:

**Data September 2020 Data Assessment (TEA)<sup>5</sup>**

| <b>Grade Level</b>   | <b>Approaches</b> | <b>Meets</b> | <b>Masters</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> ELA  | 88%               | 67%          | 38%            |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Math | 88%               | 41%          | 14%            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> ELA  | 82%               | 48%          | 25%            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Math | 84%               | 43%          | 13%            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> ELA  | 91%               | 70%          | 43%            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Math | 90%               | 75%          | 50%            |

Dr. Seybert stated that this data is alarming because when the students were accepted to the school, 100% were approaching grade level, demonstrating that the “COIVD slide” has greatly affected the students at YWLA. However, she stated that she is not worried that they will meet their performance goal at the district level.

- In October 2020 MAP testing shows 90% of the students are reading at or above current grade level, 10 % of YWLA Midland students are reading at least one grade level below current grade level—so Dr. Seybert explained that they are addressing this rate. She went on to say

<sup>4</sup> This was the largest ever bond to pass in SAISD.

<sup>5</sup> Students had been out of school/remote learning since March 2020 when they were given this assessment.

that more than half of the student population, 55%, are reading more than 2 grade levels above their current grade levels—some are reading at 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade levels.

- The intervention model which is used Fridays is called a “Girl Power Day.” Because instruction was Monday through Thursday, the campus implemented Fridays as intervention days depending on student needs. This model helps the girls that are struggling with reading have individual help they need and the girls who are reading above grade level have enrichment classes. All students get to enjoy enrichment classes with interesting science projects, from shooting off rockets to making butter.

Jeanne Whitman asked both Dr. Seybert and Ms. McLerran if it’s possible that the state-wide tests will be could be optional for campuses who are needing to see that data. Dr. Seybert responded that how the district will measure accountability is still unknown at this point. Ms. McLerran stated that the secondary school can opt in to taking for example, the Algebra II test for data, however there is funding involved and it is undecided if the district will choose to fund that. She went on to explain that they will still be able to use the PSAT as a data point, but again has a financial component to it and at this point they have not decided if they will make that investment.

- Dr. Seybert reported that the teachers are facing challenges in hybrid teaching, as well as gaps in learning among incoming students: 60% of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students came from a D or an F rated elementary school. She explained that this presents challenges in filling the gaps for those students and their goal will be to fill those gaps as they enter high school next year.

### **Celebrations**

- It was reported the new book vending machine has been a great success. The girls earn tokens and then get to buy their very own book to keep.<sup>6</sup>
- Dr. Seybert announced that the new library has opened and there are over 100,000 dollars’ worth of new books for the students and they will be the first ones to check out the books.
- The science and robotics teachers are YWLA have done a wonderful job with engaging the students in science labs while socially distancing and the campus is very excited to participate for the first time in the annual YWPN STEAM Challenge, which will be virtual this year.
- In keeping with the pillar of community service, the campus is engaging in a “Stack Up Stock Up” a cup stacking event. The students get to enjoying a cup stacking tournament and give back to their community by collecting canned food to “stock-up” the food bank.
- Dr Seybert shared that YWLA Midland hosted a traveling Smithsonian exhibit about the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment held on Election Day

### **Questions and Comments:**

Kate Williamson asked how the board members could help the schools if STARR testing moves forward in the spring; should the board members be advocating to pause testing? Berta Fogerson responded that the members’ impact as individuals will be most effective in spreading awareness. Ms. Fogerson directed the question to Ms. McLerran and Dr. Seybert with regard to what level of advocacy they are needing. Discussion about various levels of support was held. Sonia Rodriguez cautioned the board members to be judicious with their advocacy regarding this issue. Ms. Rodriguez suggested if a different type of testing were needed, for instance what is used in private schools, possibly YWPN could help with the funding.

Ms. Williamson reiterated that as a board they are here to support the schools in whatever they need. Ms. Fogerson stated that as a partner they need to tread lightly regarding this issue. Ms. Fogerson

---

<sup>6</sup> This is an initiative between the school and the Education Foundation in Midland ISD.



again referred to the ways in which YWPN has stepped up as a Network to provide for the needs of these schools, ie helping to identify educators to fill vacancies and will work to fund assessments that may be needed in the future.

Ms. Rodriguez asked Ms. Fogerson if there are resources available to get immediate support for things like charging stations at the schools, putting immediate dollars into the classrooms. Ms. Fogerson responded that the 1882 schools did embed funding in their budgets in anticipation for unexpected needs. Dr. Seybert explained that while they have the funds available to purchase supplies when needed, there is a lag time in receiving those supplies in a timely manner due to the pandemic.

Ms. McLerran mentioned that they do have flexibility in the allocation of their 1882 funding: they have reallocated funds for college trips to purchase needed furniture for classrooms.

Dr. Pruitt asked for any further questions or comments. Dave Joyner announced that if his wife is elected to the school board, he would have to resign from the 1882 Board.

Ms. McLerran discussed grading policy changes within SAISD: instead of 15 minimum grades, they have dropped that to 10 minimum grades—two of them being assessments. This is a temporary shift until the remainder of the school year. Dr. Pruitt asked if YWLA Midland implemented any grading changes, and Dr. Seybert responded that the semester exam will now count as a grade in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-weeks and that six-week periods are now 9-week periods.

There were no further questions or comments. Sharonda Pruitt wished the board and school staff a Happy Thanksgiving.

#### **VI. Meeting Adjournment**

- Dr. Pruitt adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.
- **Next Meeting:**  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

