

YACA Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2011
Yinghua Academy
Final

Ms. DeGeest called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Board Members Present

Shane Stubblefield, Ana Ly, Serena Jones-White, Tess DeGeest and Muree Larson-Bright

Board Members Not Present

Coley Murphy, Ruth Straub, Todd Harmsen and Tanya Battista Crespo

Also Attending

Alison Parks and Cari Lee (Volunteer Coordinators), Becky Hoffman (Lantern Festival Gala Chair) and Abigail Pribbenow (School Board Chair)

Volunteer Coordinator

Ms. Parks introduced the new Volunteer Coordinator Ms Lee to the YACA Board. YACA unanimously endorse and support Ms. Lee as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Ms. Parks and Ms Lee will work together to ensure a smooth transition.

Agenda

Ms. Ly made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Stubblefield seconded the motion. Agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes

Ms. Larson-Bright made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Mr. Stubblefield seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Lantern Festival Gala

Ms. Hoffman reported that she would like to Co-Chair this event next year. The event was a great success. About 250 people attended the Lantern Festival Gala. Financially they have already surpassed their \$12,000 goal and it may reach an amount close to \$20,000 when all the items not sold at the event go up for auction again. Ms Hoffman reported that for next year's event they would like to rent the same space but probably will sell fewer tickets and have fewer tables available with fewer auction items. The checkout for the auction functioned smoothly and the credit card processing went very well. The proposed date for next year's Lantern Festival Gala is Saturday, February 11, 2012. This date is subject to change.

Ms Hoffman also reported that she is planning to purchase some software to manage the silent auction items. She is hoping that the software can manage solicitations, guest list, online auction bids prior to the event and the sale of tickets for the event. She has done some research and there is some software available for about \$1,000 per year.

It was proposed that the school may be interested to find a systems architect to create a constituent management data program to include a relational database, gift receipts and

custom printing to be used by the Lantern Festival, the School Board and the YACA Board.

Yinghua Foundation Update

Ms. Pribbenow proposed to YACA to reconsider filing for 501c3 status. The foundation is in the final stages of submitting the paperwork to the IRS and some questions have risen.

After Ms Becky Hoffman presented the idea of the Lantern Festival Gala, the Board realized that there is a need to have a non-profit status. This was the beginning of the Yinghua Academy Foundation. The first draft of the Foundations included a Mission Statement: The purpose of the Yinghua Academy Foundation is to raise funds to support Yinghua Academy, a K-8 mandarin immersion charter public school and to undertake Yinghua Academy projects such as but not limited to publishing Mandarin immersion curriculum materials and professional workshops related to teaching Mandarin in immersion and non-immersion settings.

The School Board and the YACA Board are undergoing Strategic Planning. Several YACA members visited Park Spanish Immersion School in St Louis Park and learned about a model that they worked on for ten years and that is working very well for them. Park Spanish Immersion is a different school because is part of a District. Nova Academy is another Charter School similar to Yinghua Academy and they also have their PTO incorporated. Questions have arisen about how to best conduct a model for Yinghua Academy.

Ms Pribbenow and Ms DeGeest proposed that YACA files for 501c3 status. The YACA Board unanimously accepted to become the non-profit organization of Yinghua Academy.

The YACA Board will resume this conversation in the next meeting.

New Business

Ms. Ly and Ms. DeGeest presented the request from Ms Ursina Swanson, the Yinghua Academy Interim Director, to dedicate funds raised in this year's Used Uniform Sale to help furnish a new Teacher's Lounge. The YACA Board approved the request.

Adjourn

Ms. DeGeest adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

Next Board meeting date has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 22th at 6:30pm, at Yinghua Academy. This is an additional meeting to continue discussion of the YACA non-profit status.