

**YACA General Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 22, 2011**  
**Yinghua Academy**  
**Final**

Ms. DeGeest called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

**Board Members Present**

Tess DeGeest, Ana Ly, Ruth Straub, Tanya Battista Crespo, Muree Larson-Bright and Shane Stubblefield

**Board Members Not Present**

Todd Harmsen, Coley Murphy and Serena Jones-White

There were approximately 40 Yinghua Academy parents in attendance

**Announcements**

Ms. DeGeest introduced Ms. Abigail Pribbenow, Chair of the School Board, following the introduction of all the YACA board members present

**State of the School**

Ms. Pribbenow reported that our school is very successful. Our test scores are very high and the new Interim Director, Ms. Ursina Swanson has made a commitment to visit every single classroom in our school. Ms. Swanson and Dr. Luyi Lien, Yinghua Academy Curriculum Director, main task is to make sure that our students are thriving in their learning. Ms. Pribbenow also reported that enrollment applications for next school year are double than expected. In the most recent independent audit report, Yinghua Academy was found to be financially sound.

Ms. Pribbenow thanked all the volunteers and teachers that are helping in this year's Chinese New Year performance preparation.

Ms. Pribbenow announced that the Lantern Festival will be held on February 19. The New Standards will be performing and a Silent Auction is expected to raise some money for Yinghua Academy. Parents will be receiving a pledge for The Red Envelope Campaign right after the Chinese New Year performance. The GiveMn campaign raised \$14,000 in November. The goal is to raise \$60,000 total with all the different fundraising efforts during this year.

Ms. Pribbenow introduced and expressed gratitude for finding a person with such extensive experience for the position of Interim Director with Ms. Ursina Swanson.

Ms. Swanson explained goals for our school. Her main goal is that our students speak Chinese in all levels of their activities at school.

Ms. Swanson also thanked all the parents volunteering at school. She highlighted that she is fortunate to work with parents of immersion students because they are very committed and reliable. She also encouraged parents present to find a volunteer opportunity and to serve our school.

### **State of YACA**

Ms. DeGeest thanked everybody for an active and involved parent community. This year our school has benefited from many parents involvement other than the YACA board parents. YACA has encouraged this by hosting the Back to School Picnic, Kite Festival and all the Summer Playdates. Ms. DeGeest acknowledge all the work and effort that Ms. Becky Hoffman has dedicated to Yinghua's first Lantern Festival celebration. Also, she acknowledge all the dedication and unaccountable hours that Ms. Alison Parks has dedicated to create a very sturdy and strong volunteer program that covers all of Yinghua's needs.

Ms. DeGeest reported that YACA is undergoing changes as well: after the creation of the Yinghua Academy Foundation, YACA will be dedicating more of their efforts to other areas of need of our school. They are in the process of identifying where to help through a Strategic Planning. Ms. DeGeest encouraged parents present to become involved and consider becoming a part of YACA when the new elections come up in May, 2011.

Ms. Ruth Straub presented a summary of the YACA Bylaws changes that present members will vote for after today's meeting.

### **Presentation**

Ms. DeGeest introduced Mr. Carl Schlueter, Director of Students, Families and Community Relationships. Mr. Schlueter's presentation was on Creating a Culture of Safety.

Ms. DeGeest adjourned the meeting at 12pm.