

Yinghua Academy Board Meeting Minutes
August 04, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cindy Moeller, Naomi Mueller, Maryann Choy, Keri Norell, Sandy Doubek, Joe Yang, Kristina Schatz, Clark Liu, Doug Parish, Luyi Lien

DIRECTOR NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Betsy Lueth

Ms. Moeller called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

AGENDA

Mr. Liu made a motion to approve the agenda with one addition and Dr. Lien seconded. Motion approved.

07/14/08 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Choy made a motion to approve the minutes with a couple of changes and Ms. Doubek seconded. Motion approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Given Ms. Lueth's absence, Dr. Lien reviewed the Director's Report with the board.

ENROLLMENT

- Current Enrollment is at 242 students (77-K, 50-1st, 49-2nd, 25 -3rd, 22-4th, 19-5th)

CURRICULUM

- English language curriculum materials are being purchased.
- School schedule has been completed which includes large blocks of time for all grade levels for math and Chinese language arts and for 2nd grade and higher English language arts.
- Mrs. Van will be helping with additional English language arts support for students.
- The school is preparing to provide an accelerated Chinese language arts model for new students entering immersion grades in first and second grade.
- There will be multiple teachers working with 4th and 5th grade students in Chinese language arts for providing multiple levels of Chinese language instruction to FLES model in order to allow all students to progress at their own level.

FACILITIES

- Construction to the school is complete.
- New furniture has been ordered and scheduled to arrive 8/22/08.
- Lease aid is pending a required asbestos inspection, which will be complete mid-August.

FINANCIAL/GRANT

- Financial year-end reporting is not yet complete, pending MDE final numbers based on MARSS reporting.
- Yinghua Academy did not receive the FLAP grant this year. We are awaiting the grant committee notes and will be preparing to re-apply next year.

- Health insurance premiums will increase 2.65% for the 2008-2009 school year under current plan.
- Q-Comp application is in process.

STAFFING

- Hiring is complete for the 2008 – 2009 school year with the exception of Special Education, which will be finalized August 11th.
- Jon Vik (10 year veteran 5th grade teacher) has been hired to teach the 5th grade class.
- Yinghua has hired Andy Henderson, who is a Licensed Phy Ed teacher, for before school/discipline aide/phy ed sub.
- Yinghua will be hiring a part time LD/EBD teacher and a part-time Speech Teacher for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

STUDENTS/FAMILIES

- Summer Camp was a success based on informal parent feedback.

UPDATES/OLD BUSINESS

FINANCIALS

Mr. Parish handed out the July Financials to the board. Mr. Parish reminded the board that Yinghua Academy had won the School Finance Award last year and that we would be applying for it again in the coming year.

Audit for fiscal year 2008 will begin in the fall.

FACILITIES

Mr. Yang gave the board an overview of the site visits in the past couple of weeks. The committee reviewed three different Minneapolis schools. Ms. Lueth will be going on a site tour of these buildings in the next couple of weeks. The committee will be filling out the forms to submit to the Minneapolis schools.

The Facilities Committee will be working in the next couple of months on developing the documentation for review on some viable property options. Mr. Yang asked the board to review the option of expanding the targeted zone so the committee can review other available properties. The board asked the committee to consider options that were close to the targeted zone – but not too far out of the targeted zone.

YACA

Ms. Moeller shared with the board the success of the YACA store telling and bookmark-making event. YACA has scheduled the first general membership meeting in October. Tara Fortune from CARLA will be speaking about immersion.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Ms. Schatz updated the board on the Yinghua brochure, which is in the final stages of development and will be done by the time the school starts. The marketing committee will be looking for other members to join during next school year.

FRIENDS OF ASCENSION CONTRACT

Ms. Moeller updated the board on Friends of Ascension Contract, which was submitted in July. Ms. Moeller indicated that the contract has been approved by FOA. Ms. Moeller will send a copy to all board members once the final contract has been sent to Yinghua.

BOARD FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The formation of a Board Fundraising Committee has begun. Ms. Pribbenow, a Yinghua parent with considerable fundraising experience, Mr. Parish, and Ms. Schatz, who are both members of the Yinghua Academy Board will be the co-chairs. The committee will be seeking additional members to join this committee in the next few months.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD AND OPEN HOUSES

The board will be decided on the following dates the board for open houses -
November 8th, 2008
December 6th, 2008
January 10th, 2009
January 24th, 2009
February 7th, 2009

Open Enrollment period will be January 5th – February 11th, 2009

Mr. Parish made a motion to approve the Open House and Open Enrollment dates, Mr. Yang seconded the motion. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DOCUMENTS

The board reviewed and signed the conflict of interest statement as outlined in the MN Statutes 124D.10 Subd. 4a.

MACS MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Moeller reviewed with the board membership information on Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS). She noted that approximately one-half of MN charter schools belong to MACS. Ms. Moeller asked the board to discuss their thoughts about MACS, what the organization provides, the pros and cons of joining, and the annual \$4,000 fee. After a brief discussion there was not a motion for Yinghua Academy to join MACS.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Schatz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Liu seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.