

YACA Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
Yinghua Academy
Final

Ms. DeGeest called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Board Members Present

Tess DeGeest, Todd Harmsen, Coley Murphy, Ana Ly, Ruth Straub, Tanya Battista Crespo, Serena Jones-White, Muree Larson-Bright and Shane Stubblefield

Also Attending

Alison Parks, Volunteer Coordinator; Abigail Pribbenow, School Board Liaison and Becky Hoffman

Agenda

Ms. Ly made a motion to change the Blue Sky Guide to its new name, Chinook Book. Ms. Parks requested inclusion of future ELA workshops under the Education subcommittee. Ms. DeGeest made a motion for inclusion of these workshops. Mr. Harmsen made a motion to approve the agenda with the above changes. Ms. Jones-White seconded the motions; the motions were approved.

Minutes

Ms. Battista Crespo made a motion to approve the minutes of the August, 16th meeting. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion; the motion was approved.

Public Forum

Ms. Hoffman presented her initiative of a school gala event with a silent auction benefiting Yinghua Academy and coinciding with the Lantern Festival. The School Board supports this initiative and requested that YACA participate too. The tentative date is February 19th, 2011.

In order to host two big fundraising efforts in the school calendar year, YACA is moving the Red Envelope Campaign to November 2010. The Red Envelope Campaign would start on November 16th and the amount collected would be announced at Chinese New Year school shows and/or at the gala event.

In order to proceed with the gala event, Ms. Hoffman is considering advance ticket sales and raising sponsor money from businesses. YACA may be able to help with some of the upfront cost. At this moment there is no set budget for this event. Ms. Hoffman is hosting a meeting on September 30th for volunteers and people interested in this event. Additionally, a joint fundraising committee (including members of the School Board and YACA's Board) will be formed to raise money according to school needs.

Standing Reports

Chair/Co-Chair:

Ms. DeGeest introduced Ms. Pribbenow as the new School Board Liaison with YACA.

Ms. DeGeest recommended that subcommittees would meet the third and fourth Tuesday of the month to work on their projects and agendas. These meetings will occur as follow:

Third Tuesday: Education (5:45-6:30pm) and Communication (6:30-7:15pm)

Fourth Tuesday: School and Family (6:30-7:15pm)

The Fundraising committee will be the exception and will meet before the YACA Board meetings for 45minutes, and as needed.

Secretary:

Ms. Ly will send an invitation to Ms. Parks and Mr. Carl Schlueter to join the YACA board members Yahoo groups.

Ms. Ly proposed that each YACA board member serves on two subcommittees. Mr. Murphy is currently serving on three and Ms. Jones-White on one. As a result Mr. Murphy will serve on the Communications and Education subcommittees and Ms. Jones-White on the Education, and School and Family subcommittees.

Treasurer:

Mr. Harmsen announced that the YACA bank account has been moved from Cherokee Bank to US Bank.

Mr. Harmsen also announced that he will deposit \$440 to YACA's bank account from the proceeds of the Used Uniform Sale.

Volunteer Coordinator:

Ms. Parks announced that this year's volunteer recruitment is going very well. Recess coverage is adequate. She also announced that Ms. Robin Monty would lead the new library volunteer effort and that she will be training future library volunteers. This year there are several community volunteers at our school including University volunteers and a high school volunteer.

School Board Liaison:

Ms. Pribbenow presented that the School Board is currently working with Executive Director, Betsy Lueth on job descriptions for all the positions at

Yinghua Academy. There was a need for some organizational structure and now there is an organization chart.

The School Board has created several teams to work on different matters: Marketing, Fundraising, Academic, Governance & Policy, Organizational Structure, Personnel, and Website. They are also interested in forming Hospitality group to welcome and help new faculty adjust to Minnesota.

Ms. Pribbenow announced that Ms. MaryAnn Choy is the School Board's new Secretary.

Sub Committee Reports

Communications:

Ms. DeGeest presented that after her conversation with Mr. Carl Schlueter, YACA newsletters will be included in a column in the electronic School Newsletter.

Fundraising:

Ms. DeGeest suggested that Ms. Pribbenow and Ms. Kristin Swenson would form part of the combined effort to create one fundraising committee to pursue common fundraising projects that will benefit and fulfill Yinghua Academy's needs.

School and Family:

Ms. DeGeest announced that the First Friday Coffee event was a success. This is an event welcomed by Yinghua families and creates good community relations with local business. Ms. Jones-White will be the host of the October First Friday Coffee to be held on October 1st at Urban Harvest.

Classroom Coordinator

Ms. Ly reported that all the Classroom Coordinator volunteer positions have been fulfilled. Ms. Ly and Ms. Parks hosted a training session on September 10th and twenty one volunteers attended. Ms. Parks and Ms. Ly provided the trainees with a handbook and class. Ms. Parks announced that she is considering stepping down from Classroom Coordinator Liaison in January.

Education:

Ms. Ly provided information about the MIA training sessions. Volunteers will attend two training sessions on September 16th and 23rd. Ms. Straub met with volunteers to outline how the Art Adventure program has functioned in previous years.

Ms. Battista Crespo will contact Ms. Betsy Lueth and Ms. Luyi Lien for suggestions for speakers for the upcoming General Membership Meeting. This meeting has featured an immersion specialist in the past years. The Education committee will meet to outline the program.

ELA Workshops

Ms. Parks announced that Groves Academy is implementing the ELA program (English Language Arts) at Yinghua Academy, in grades 2 through 5. This program is designed to implement language skills at an early age to achieve maximum English language knowledge. Groves Academy has agreed to stay at Yinghua Academy for three years to implement this program. They will be evaluating students and providing teachers and parents with the right tools to help students achieve English language skills.

Ms. Parks announced that there is an interest and a need to implement ELA parent workshops in our school. At this moment the school is searching for grant funds to develop a series of workshops for parents of children in kindergarten and first grade. These workshops are designed to help parents identify how they can help their children acquire good English skills. YACA is fully committed to help support the implementation of these types of workshops. Ms. Ly made a motion to approve. Mr. Stubberfield seconded it; the motion was approved.

Adjourn

Ms. DeGeest adjourned the meeting at 10 pm.

Next Board meeting date is scheduled for 6:30pm, Tuesday, October 12th at Yinghua Academy.