

Special Meeting of the Yinghua Academy School Board
1616 Buchanan St. NE, Minneapolis, 7/8th Grade Room
Saturday, November 12, 2011, 9:00 AM
FINAL

Board Members in Attendance: Lou Bender, Scott Jax, Karen Lu, Joel O'Malley, Jen Shadowens (Chair)

Board Members Not in Attendance: Ruth Hansen, Rosemary Lawrence, Taoyuan Li, Doug Parish (Treasurer)

Acting Director/Academic Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

Board Guests in Attendance: Phyllis Saltzman, Deb Peterson

Public in Attendance: Ruth Straub, Cindy Moeller, Lee Williams, Bruce MacFarlane, Joan Kerkvliet, Margaret Metzdorff, Kerri Neitzel, Christina Erickson, Pamela Cherry, Shane Stubblefield, Paul Preimesberger

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shadowens called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

Ms. Shadowens requested the addition of Committee discussion to follow Open Forum.

The MOTION by Ms. Lu to approve the proposed agenda with changes was seconded and passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Straub, Yinghua parent, expressed a number of concerns regarding school culture, academics, availability of Chinese books and discussion time, and expense of outside consultants, as well as appreciation for the upcoming Town Hall forum. In addition, Ms. Straub expressed a desire for the curriculum team to involve parents, for the community to be surveyed about the desire for a K-8 program, and for the new director have an education background.

Ms. Metzdorff, Yinghua parent, expressed concern regarding perceived changes in the morning regimen which may affect school safety.

IV. SECRETARY NOMINATION

Ms. Shadowens expressed a desire for a Secretary to be elected in order to have all of the Board Officer positions filled. Lou Bender nominated Karen Lu.

The MOTION made by Ms. Bender to appoint Ms. Lu as Secretary to the Board of Directors was seconded and passed. The Board voted unanimously.

V. REVISED EXPANSION APPLICATION

Ms. Shadowens requested general feedback, questions, and concerns. Much discussion followed, including eliminating references to moving the middle school, having Mr. Parish review JB Realty's budget assumptions, and incorporating Mr. Jax's edits. Mr. O'Malley suggested the possibility of having 2012-2013 Kindergarteners remain at the second site for two years in order to reduce disruption to families. The idea was discussed with the conclusion that this decision could be made

at a later date.

Ms. Shadowens reviewed Fund Balance text including immersion curriculum and program development with the Board. Ms. Lu suggested rewriting Potential Locations text to incorporate nearby office building locations proposed by JB Realty. Mr. Jax would like the enrollment figures to be double-checked for consistency and requested that Mr. Parish provide more information about what is included in the Contracted Services budget (i.e. architect and attorney fees). Ms. Bender requested that JB Realty also review the attached budgets.

The MOTION made by Ms. Bender to approve the Expansion Application as amended pending Mr. Parish's final review was seconded and passed.

Ms. Bender explained the purpose of the Expansion Application to public in attendance as well as the board's intention to share the expansion plan with the community at the November 17th Open Forum.

VI. PARK BOARD DISCUSSION

Ms. Shadowens provided the board with an update of her recent meeting with Ms. Wielinski, Park Board Commissioner for District 1, which includes Northeast Minneapolis. Ms. Wielinski indicated to Ms. Shadowens that Minneapolis Parks is amenable to a working relationship with Yinghua. Discussion included a shared-use agreement for the gym and parks building space and a number of longer-term scenarios.

VII. NOVEMBER OPEN FORUM

Ms. Shadowens shared that YACA agreed to let the Board use the 7-8pm time period of the November 17th YACA General Meeting to present the State of the School and field questions. The presentation will address academics, financials, the Executive Director search, facilities and expansion, and work on the strategic plan. Much discussion followed regarding the structure of the forum, how to involve the community, and how to collect and answer questions. All agreed that a moderator would be appropriate. Mr. O'Malley also suggested a PowerPoint presentation. The Board agreed that visuals would be helpful to the presentation. Dr. Lien suggested follow up conversations after the Open Forum with groups of parents (by grade) at different times of day in order to maximize community involvement. Ms. Saltzman emphasized that this Open Forum is the first in a series of meetings. Ms. Shadowens and Ms. Bender will work together to formalize the Open Forum process.

VIII. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Ms. Shadowens requested the Board finalize previous discussions regarding realignment of Board committees with the Strategic Plan. Previous discussions were cut short due to time constraints. Ms. Shadowens will serve as Organizational Sustainability Chair. Committee Chairs were asked to outline goals for the year as well as describe desired member quantities and skill sets for the Open Forum meeting.

The MOTION made by Mr. Jax to align Board committees with the Strategic Plan as recommended at the November 3rd Board Meeting was seconded and passed.

IX. ADJOURN

The MOTION made by Ms. Shadowens to adjourn at 11:10 AM was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Karen Lu, Secretary.

Approved by vote of Board on: November 30, 2011