

**Regular Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Yinghua Academy School Board**

1616 Buchanan Street NE, Minneapolis, MN

Monday, June 3, 2013

5:00-5:50 PM in Music Room, 6:00-7:30 in Cafeteria

FINAL

**Board Members in Attendance:** Lou Bender, Denny Grubish (Treasurer), Walt Graff, Scott Jax (arrived at 5:19 p.m.), Rosemary Lawrence, Karen Lu (Secretary), Jen Shadowens (Chair), Seth Werner

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Ruth Hansen, Joel O'Malley

**Executive Director in Attendance:** Mrs. Sue Berg

**YACA Chair not in Attendance:** Christopher Brooks

**Public in Attendance:** Scott Brown, Piyali Nath Dalal, Priscilla Havens, and Jane Steiner

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shadowens called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. APPROVALS

a. 6/3/13 Agenda

**The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to approve the agenda was seconded and passed.**

b. 5/13/13 Minutes

Mr. Werner made a minor edit.

**The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to approve the minutes as amended was seconded and passed.**

c. Approve 2012-13 Column on 5/31 Budget Model as Current Working Budget

The Finance Committee recommended the board approve the FY 2013 Working Budget (see Board Packet for details).

**The MOTION by Ms. Lu to approve the 2012-13 column on the 5/31 long-range budget model as the FY 2013 Working Budget was seconded and passed.**

d. Approve 2013-14 Column on 5/31 Budget Model as initial FY 2014 Budget

The Finance Committee recommended the board approve the FY 2014 Budget (see Board Packet for details). Questions and discussion followed.

**The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to approve the 2013-14 column on the 5/31 long-range budget model as the FY 2014 Budget, with the caveat that the board continue to work to**

**meet the 10.1% fund balance from the bond budget submitted to Standard & Poors, was seconded and passed.**

e. Financial Manager for Fiscal Year 2014

Mr. Grubish presented the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve BKDA as Yinghua Academy's Financial Manager (see Board Packet for details). The contract addendum is new this year. Questions and discussion followed.

**The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to approve BKDA as Yinghua Academy's Financial Manager with the contract addendum and at the cost of \$7,020/month for Fiscal Year 2014 was seconded and passed unanimously.**

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brown, a kindergarten parent, expressed concern regarding inadequate bus stops for families located in neighborhoods with busy streets. Mr. Brown lives in Northeast Minneapolis and believes that changes to bus stops addressing safety issues will also result in a decrease in drivers which add to traffic congestion at the school.

Ms. Dalal, a kindergarten parent and resident of Northeast Minneapolis, expressed the desire for a bus stop closer to home since she considers driving to a hub stop and driving all the way to school essentially the same. Ms. Dalal requested the board and administration take into account all of the issues related to busing.

Ms. Havens, a kindergarten parent, expressed concern that next year the bus may not stop at her daycare and requested that decisions regarding busing take everybody's needs into consideration.

Ms. Steiner, a kindergarten parent, expressed the desire for a daycare stop as well. Ms. Steiner also requested communications regarding busing to occur in a timely manner since plans for care in the fall need to be made now.

IV. PERSONNEL

a. Executive Director Evaluation – Closed

Summary: Mr. Grubish reviewed the Executive Director Performance Evaluation. The Board continues to be pleased with Mrs. Berg as CEO/Executive Director of Yinghua Academy and is grateful for her collaborative and visionary leadership of the school. Discussion followed. The Personnel Committee will meet with Mrs. Berg next week to present the Performance Evaluation.

**The MOTION by Ms. Bender to approve the Executive Director Performance Evaluation was seconded and passed.**

b. Executive Director Contract

The Personnel Committee recommended an Executive Director salary increase of 2% for the remainder of the contract term. The Personnel Committee will research and recommend a long-term range for the Executive Director salary.

**The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to increase the Executive Director salary by 2% from 7/1/13-6/30/14 was seconded and passed unanimously.**

V. RECESS TO ANNUAL MEETING IN CAFETERIA

**The MOTION by Ms. Shadowens to recess to the Annual Meeting at 5:50 p.m. was seconded and passed.**

VI. WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

Ms. Lu called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES/STATEMENTS

Ms. Lu, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced the four school board candidates: three parents and one community member. Mr. Grubish, Ms. Shadowens, Ms. Whiting, and Ms. Reider each presented their interest and qualifications.

VIII. STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Ms. Shadowens presented the State of the School which included affirming K-8 education to ensure language immersion success and providing an update on high school partnership conversations. Ms. Shadowens noted that progress has been made in the areas of facilities, finances, and teacher retention – areas in which all charter schools face challenges. The bond is scheduled to close the week after school gets out for the summer, followed by demolition and construction, allowing for consolidation of the two campuses in the fall of 2014. With respect to finances, Yinghua was recognized with the School Finance Award from MDE again this year. Ms. Shadowens thanked the community for exceeding the goal for every fundraiser this year as well as for two large anonymous donations this spring in the amount of \$20,000 and \$30,000 which were pivotal in closing a funding gap. In addition, legislative changes will result in Yinghua receiving full-day kindergarten funding beginning in FY 2015. This will free up fundraised dollars to focus on retaining our best teachers through augmenting salaries, providing visas, and supporting licensure and education.

IX. ADJOURN

**The MOTION made by Ms. Shadowens to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. was seconded and passed.**

Minutes drafted by Karen Lu, Secretary.  
Approved by vote of Board on: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013