

**Special Meeting of the Yinghua Academy School Board**  
**Off-Site Retreat**  
Charter School Partners, 2800 University Ave SE #202, Minneapolis  
**Saturday, April 25, 2015; 1:00-5:00 PM**  
FINAL

**Board Members in Attendance:** Denny Grubish (Treasurer), Walt Graff, Emily Hanson, Scott Jax, Jan Kleinman (Secretary – arrived 1:05 pm), Karen Lu (Chair), Suzanne Reider, Jen Shadowens, Seth Werner, Sarah Whiting

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Rosemary Lawrence

**Executive Director in Attendance:** Sue Berg

**Public in Attendance:** Jason Cintorino, Jill Griffiths (departed at 3:00 pm), Lisa Matre (Governance Committee), Amanda Schneider (Finance Committee)

**Facilitator:** Morgan Brown, Charter School Partners

I. WELCOME

Mr. Brown presented an overview of the retreat's purpose and agenda.

II. SHARING OF 2014/15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ms. Shadowens invited each board member to share one of this past year's successes at Yinghua Academy. Successes cited:

- a. *New York Times* coverage highlighting features of which we are proud
- b. "First year of maturity" at one consolidated campus
- c. Yinghua received nomination as a "Exemplary High Performing" National Blue Ribbon School
- d. High retention rate of both students and teachers
- e. Health and character education for middle school students
- f. Memorable performance of grade 8 students at Chinese New Year
- g. High profile of Yinghua in Twin Cities
- h. Expecting to reach our fund balance goal in 2015
- i. School environment in which older students mentor and interact positively with younger students
- j. Smooth budget process
- k. Excellent results compared to other Minnesota schools, even with a smaller charter school budget
- l. Proactive board actions, rather than reactive as in past years.

### III. RECAP & DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL GOAL PROGRESS

Based on a careful analysis of board member feedback (collected prior to retreat), Ms. Reider and Ms. Shadowens presented a detailed summary chart. Ms. Shadowens guided the Board in viewing Yinghua Academy's annual goals and progress towards those goals. She highlighted goals in which the board and the committee principally responsible for that goal, or the Executive Director, were not in alignment on progress. Discussion centered on why these discrepancies might exist.

### IV. DRAFTING OF ANNUAL GOALS AND BOARD OBJECTIVES FOR 2015/16

Mr. Brown facilitated a methodical examination of each goal, and the corresponding Board objectives, and whether each should continue to be a goal/objective or whether it should be revised for 2015/16. Several goals/objectives were tabled for future discussion.

### V. STRATEGIC PLANNING BRAINSTORM

Each board member wrote organizational goals for the next 5 years. Mr. Brown reviewed aloud and grouped these 5-year goals.

Minutes prepared by Jan Kleinman.

Approved by vote of Board on May 18, 2015.

