

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 15, 2016, 6:00 PM

Yinghua Academy Music Room

Board Members in Attendance: Denny Grubish (Treasurer), Emily Hanson, Rosemary Lawrence, Karen Lu, David Mair, Lisa Matre, Seth Werner, Chris Ziolkowski

Board Members Not in Attendance: Mei Chen, Kimberly Gill (Secretary), Shu-Mei Lei, Joel Luedtke, Amanda Schneider

Executive Director in Attendance: Sue Berg

Public in Attendance: Anne Sturdivant approximately 15 others

YACA Representative in Attendance: Dina Nash

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lu called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

II. APPROVALS (3 min)

a. 8/15/16 Agenda

Ms. Lu added an item b. Board Member Appointment under Governance Update.

Mr. Grubish noted that the numeral 'IV' was duplicated.

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

b. 7/18/16 Regular Meeting Minutes

The MOTION by Ms. Hanson to approve the minutes was seconded and passed.

c. Gender Inclusion Policy

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. FINANCE/FACILITIES UPDATE (3 min)

Mr. Grubish updated the board that the Finance Committee has reviewed the year-end financials and the school will finish the year as expected and as reported in previous meetings. The Finance Committee also reviewed a work-in-progress version of the building's

long term maintenance plan. The plan was presented by Mr. Francois, the Facilities Manager.

V. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (12 min)

a. Admissions Policy

Ms. Matre introduced a revision to the Admissions Policy. Specifically, adding a definition of 'sibling' to the policy. Ms. Matre noted that the definition of 'sibling' is based on dictionary definition – a common practice by the courts when no definition is provided in a statute as is the case with 'sibling' in MN statutes. Ms. Lu offered some background as to the need for the clarification in the Policy. Ms. Berg noted that in the past, the school has solely relied on any given parents interpretation of the term 'sibling' and the clarification will be helpful guidance to parents and the school administration. Mr. Mair asked about narrowness of the proposed definition and the committee agreed to investigate additional options.

b. Board Member Appointments

Ms. Matre noted that Ms. Gill has resigned her position on the board and that the Governance Committee recommends that Bo Liu, a licensed teacher at Yinghua, be appointed to complete Ms. Gill's term which ends on 6/30/18.

The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to appoint Ms. Liu to the board for the remainder of Ms. Gill's term (6/30/18) was seconded and passed.

VI. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE (123 min)

Ms. Sturdivant, a consultant hired by Yinghua, introduced the general purpose of strategic planning and the tasks that each of the groups presenting were asked to complete.

a. Competition

Ms. Hanson shared the findings of the group relating to teacher compensation, executive director compensation and the changing landscape of immersion programs.

b. Diversity

Ms. Pribbenow explained that while the name of the group is 'Diversity' their focus was on equity. The group offered several recommendations to the board including: the creation of an Equity Team, the adoption of an Equity Policy, strive to create a welcoming environment (eliminating micro-aggressions and offering differentiated interventions), transition to a diversity of classroom assessments (i.e. portfolios in addition to test scores) and offering staff training on topics such as implicit bias.

c. Educating for the Future

Ms. Shadowens noted that while the school has seen great success there is a changing landscape of not only general ideas about education but also the diversity of the student populations being served. The group recommended that focusing on more student centered learning techniques should be a strategic initiative.

d. Graduates

Ms. Erickson shared the results of the group's four areas of focus: Information for decision making about high school, Maintaining Chinese language, Alumni relations and the collection of data about Yinghua graduates. Specific recommendations for each were provided.

e. Growth

Mr. Grubish shared some background about Yinghua's growth and the challenges that additional growth may create. Specific topics included: building capacity, busing limitations and the upcoming NE Park Improvement Plan.

f. Sharing Our Expertise

Dr. Lien shared the many ways that the school has participated in the broader community of immersion learning. The group looked at ways, in addition to those currently employed, as to how the School can continue to share and grow expertise. Suggestions included; branding a collection of assets such as curriculum and instruction materials for distribution, create a teacher training program and additional student programming.

Ms. Sturdivant thanked all of the groups for their tremendous efforts and offered some concluding remarks about the strategic planning process and next steps for the Board.

VII. ADJOURN (1 min)

The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to adjourn at 8:31pm was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Seth Werner, Secretary

Approved by vote of Board on: September 19, 2016