

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Retreat Minutes

Saturday, October 28, 2017 12:00 p.m.

Zues Jones

2429 Nicollet Ave, Mpls, MN 55404

Board Members in Attendance: Lisa Matre (Chair), Amanda Schneider (Treasurer), David Mair (Secretary), Mei Chen, Denny Grubish, Paul Haller, Jason Cintorino, Shu-Mei Lai, Bo Liu, Joel Luedtke, Jane Steiner, Rosemary Lawrence

Board Members Not in Attendance: Chris Ziolkowski

Executive Director in Attendance: Sue Berg

Public in Attendance: Jen Shadowens (former Board member and host), Beth Topoluk (Friends of Education), Eugene Piccolo (Minnesota Association of Charter Schools)

I. WELCOME / OVERVIEW (5 minutes)

Ms. Matre called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Ms. Shadowens provided basic information on use of the building. Mr Grubish presented the agenda for the day.

II. ICE BREAKER (30 minutes)

Mr. Grubish presented information that board members had provided about their life experience during a game of bingo.

III. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW (22 minutes)

Mrs. Berg presented examples of how the Strategic Plan is implemented on a daily basis. Currently, most work has been done on the first three objectives of Initiative One, to increase Chinese proficiency through programming, environment, experiences, and support. Ms. Liu and Ms. Lai also provided examples. Ms. Matre updated the Board on the use of the Plan as a living document. Discussion followed.

IV. CHARTER REVIEW (62 minutes)

Ms. Topoluk from Friends of Education, the authorizer of Yinghua Academy, provided information about the history of Friends of Education as well as Yinghua Academy. She discussed the role of the authorizer to monitor and evaluate the school. The authorizer provides the charter for the school. According to the Minnesota Statute, "[t]he primary purpose of charter schools is to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement."

BREAK

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (65 minutes)

Mr. Piccolo from the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools provided a brief history of the Association as well as its role. Minnesota was the first state to have charter schools. Currently there are 163 charter schools in MN, and thousands across the US and the world. The areas of focus for the future of the Association is equity of funding for charter schools, reducing waste in facilities costs, and working to balance autonomy and accountability. Discussion followed.

BREAK

VI. FINANCIAL REVIEW (27 minutes)

Mr. Grubish and Ms. Schneider presented a summary of the finances of Yinghua Academy. Topics covered include sources of funding and budgeting. Due to time limitations, the Board elected to cover the fund balance and the bond obligation at the next Board meeting.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes drafted by David Mair

Approved by vote of Board on: 11/20/17