

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Yinghua Academy Media Center: 1616 Buchanan St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

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

Board Members Not in Attendance: Rosemary Lawrence

Executive Director in Attendance: Sue Berg

YACA Representative in Attendance: Peter Fontaine

Public in Attendance: Tammy Richey (Friends of Education), Debra Schneider (Yinghua's immigration attorney), Denise Kurki Meyer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Matre called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

II. APPROVALS (14 minutes)

a. 02/26/18 Agenda

Mrs. Berg requested adding an academic calendar revision and a student leave of absence as approval items e. and f. Mr. Luedtke requested adding a development update. Dr. Mair suggested a correction to the numbering.

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

b. 01/30/18 Regular Meeting Minutes

Minor edits were suggested by Mrs. Berg, Ms. Schneider, and Mr. Luedtke.

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

c. Policy 601 Yinghua Academy Curriculum and Instruction Goals

No changes since the last Board meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Chen to approve Policy 601 was seconded and passed.

- d. YA-XXX Group Health Insurance Coverage Purchasing Policy

No changes since the last Board meeting.

The MOTION by Mr. Luedtke to approve Policy YA-XXX was seconded and passed.

- e. Academic Calendar Revision

Mrs. Berg notified the Board that the originally scheduled dates of the Academic Performances would take place at the same time as the National Chinese Language Conference. Therefore, it was rescheduled to May 23-24.

The MOTION by Dr. Haller to approve the Academic Calendar revision was seconded and passed.

- f. Student Leave of Absence

Mrs. Berg presented a request by a family for their two students to be absent from September through December of the 2018-2019 academic year. They have presented an academic plan and intend to hire a Chinese tutor during their absence.

The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to approve the Leave of Absence was seconded and passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (4 minutes)

A parent, Ms. Kurki Meyer, inquired as to any opposition by the Administration or Board to students or parents participating in a walk-out or other local organized activities on April 20th to protest against gun violence. Mrs. Berg said that she would not oppose students participating.

IV. H-1B Visa / Immigration Update (19 minutes)

Ms. Debra Schneider, immigration attorney for Yinghua Academy, provided an update to the Board regarding immigration policy. There has been a significant change in interpretation of immigration law on a federal level, which has affected employees of Yinghua Academy.

The biggest challenge for Yinghua Academy has been an increase in denials and requests for more information. Of Yinghua Academy teachers who require a visa, most have H-1B visas, which allows them to work legally in the United States. There have been three primary challenges. First, Yinghua Academy has had to demonstrate that the applicants

have at least a bachelor's degree of education. Second, the level 1 salary is low enough that the government has argued that due to the salary, the position must not be sufficiently specialized. Third, the government has required proof that the hiring agency (Yinghua Academy) has the capacity to control the individual's work.

Currently, Yinghua Academy must enter a lottery for applicants. Yinghua Academy is working to become officially affiliated with Hamline University due to the student teaching arrangement in order to avoid the lottery. Discussion followed.

V. FINANCE/FACILITIES UPDATE (15 minutes)

Ms. Amanda Schneider summarized current financials. The 2017/2018 academic year is 58% complete. Fund balance is at 36%. Expenditures are at 54% for the year, revenues are at 58%.

The Finance/Facilities Committee now has access to the Yinghua Building Corporation (YBC) financials. YBC will be paying a consultant, Kou Vang, an estimated \$5-7K to develop a 5-year building repair/replacement plan.

Discussion followed.

VI. PERSONNEL UPDATE (10 minutes)

a. CEO / Executive Director Evaluation and Timeline

Mr. Cintorino summarized the process for evaluation of the Executive Director. The committee will present the evaluation tool/questions at the March Board meeting. The committee is seeking to make the process more streamlined. Discussion followed.

VII. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (27 minutes)

a. Board Effectiveness Survey

Mr. Grubish presented the results of the Board Effectiveness Survey. Overall the Board scored themselves highly. Areas for opportunity include developing a succession plan, a plan to deal with non-attending Board members (which hasn't been a problem), and strategy vs reporting. The Governance Committee will discuss at the next meeting on how to proceed in the areas of opportunity.

b. Nominating Letter – Call for Candidates

Board recruitment letters will go out on February 28th. Five Board member's terms will be expiring. School Board elections are May 7-14. Dr. Mair suggested that efforts should be taken to increase voter turnout.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (3 minutes)

Mr. Luedtke reported that the Development Committee plans to hold a phone bank for the Red Envelope Campaign on Sunday March 4th, 4-6 PM at Yinghua Academy. Board members are encouraged to attend.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (19 minutes)

Mrs. Berg presented the most recent Executive Director report. She highlighted the robust response for the Enrollment Lottery. Our authorizer, Friends of Education, has hired an evaluator who will be doing a site visit and assessing Yinghua Academy March 5 & 6. They will meet with the Administration, students, parents, teachers, and Board members. She also discussed the upcoming China trip for middle school students.

X. ADJOURN

The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by David Mair

Approved by vote of Board on: 3/26/2018