



**YINGHUA
ACADEMY**

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2012 Yinghua Academy School Board Candidates

The following seven individuals are standing for election to the Yinghua Academy School Board, for terms running June, 2012 through June, 2015. Voters will have the opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates at the Annual Meeting of the School on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Yinghua Academy cafeteria.

There are four open seats on the School Board to be filled by this election. Official ballots will be sent to all eligible voters by May 25th. Ballots will be accepted into the office by mail or drop-off, or can be returned during the Annual Meeting of the School. All ballots received in the Yinghua Academy office by 5 pm on Wednesday, June 6 will be considered.

One outside community member, one licensed teacher, and five parent representatives comprise the continuing Yinghua Academy School Board. According to the bylaws of the School Board, in compliance with state statute, the Yinghua Academy Board follows the 1/1/1 governance model, where at least one member on the school board must be a licensed teacher working at the school, one member must be the parent/guardian of a currently enrolled student, and one member must be an outside community member who is neither employed by the school nor a parent/guardian of a child currently attending Yinghua Academy. In accord with bylaws, candidates on the ballot will be segregated by category of board membership and identified as community member, teacher, or parent/guardian.

The Nominating Committee of the School Board has identified needs for board members with experience in these areas: commercial real estate, legislative or lobbying experience, finance, fundraising, Mandarin language proficiency, and non-profit boards.

Overview of Candidates and Affiliations

Community Members:

Emily Hanson, Community Programs Specialist, Confucius Institute of the University of Minnesota

Seth Werner, Faculty in Marketing, Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota

Teacher:

De Hanuman, Physical Education Teacher, Athletic Coordinator and Behavioral Specialist, Yinghua Academy

Parents/Guardians:

Scott Jax, (*incumbent, seated June, 2009*), Strategic Planning Manager, SPIRE Federal Credit Union

Stephanie Olsen, Senior Manager, Volunteers of America – Minnesota Charter School Authorizing Program

Shannon Scanlon, Regulatory Training and Continuing Education, Ameriprise Financial

Dan White, Analyst, Office of Institutional Research, University of Minnesota

Candidate Statements

Community Members:

Emily Hanson

Greetings! I am community member with professional and personal interests in Chinese language and culture education, nonprofit management, and high-quality public education. I would like to serve on the Yinghua Academy School Board because I am impressed with the achievements Yinghua Academy has made in a short period of time and I would be honored to contribute to your ongoing success. My background in Chinese language education and nonprofit organizations makes me particularly suited to provide leadership in the areas of school culture and community, and teacher professional development. I would be very interested in working with Yinghua teachers and school administrators to help bridge the cultural gaps that exist between Chinese and U.S. school cultures.

I currently work as Community Programs Specialist at the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota where I develop programs to strengthen Chinese language and culture education

across the state. This involves designing professional development opportunities for Chinese language teachers and providing cultural activities for K-12 students who study Chinese. In this work I have developed a strong relationship with Minnesota's Chinese language teacher community and I feel I have an ear to the ground regarding issues that are important to schools where Chinese is taught, particularly around issues of teacher licensure, teacher retention, and the role of cultural differences. Prior to joining the Confucius Institute I was Program Director at Young Audiences of Minnesota, an arts-in-education nonprofit organization. I have also worked as an adoption specialist at a Chinese adoption agency and as a volunteer coordinator for a reading program in two public elementary schools.

In 2012 I will complete my master's degree in Comparative and International Development Education from the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development. My master's thesis explores how teachers from China adjust and adapt to working in U.S. K-12 schools, and highlights the significant differences between U.S. and Chinese school cultures. I earned my B.A. in Global Studies from the University of Minnesota. I also received a mini-MBA for nonprofit organizations from the University of St. Thomas, and have taken classes in nonprofit management and nonprofit finance at the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota.

I began my study of Mandarin Chinese as a high school student at South High School in Minneapolis. This early introduction to Chinese language sparked my life-long connection to China and Chinese language education. As a high school student I spent one semester on a study abroad program in Beijing where I lived with a Chinese host family. This was a transformative experience, which continues to inform my understanding of cultural difference. Additionally, I have travelled to China with many adoptive families and with two delegations of U.S. school administrators. I also served as a team member on the Minnesota Department of Education's 2006 Mandarin Chinese Legislative Project.

Seth Werner

As a faculty member of the marketing department in the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota for the past eight years, I have made the internationalization of my curriculum a top priority. In the same way that Yinghua Academy seeks to enrich the lives of the community that it serves, I have done the same for the University of Minnesota community. Recognizing the importance of fostering greater global competency among our students, I not only integrate examples from around the world in the classroom, but I take students to these places. Over the past six years, I have designed and led nine overseas experiences taking over 200 students abroad. Specifically, I have lead five undergrad and two MBA programs to China and two undergrad programs to Dubai, U.A.E.

Having visited China over a dozen times, including multiple extended stays, I have had a firsthand look at the importance of fostering greater connections between the citizens of Minnesota and China. For the past two years I have been a visiting lecturer at China Europe International Business School (CEIBS), China's top MBA program, which has provided me with the opportunity to connect with many of the top business leaders working and visiting China. In

addition to these connections to a professional community, in 2010 my family and I lived in Dali, Yunnan Province, China connecting us to the daily lives of common Chinese people. During this time our daughter attended a local Chinese school while I conducted field research doing interviews with *haigui* (Chinese nationals that have returned to China after living or working overseas) for my doctoral dissertation research (completed in 2011).

As Yinghua Academy continues to grow, I am excited about the opportunity to share my experiences and leveraging my expertise and contacts to help the school to manage its growth. One of the greatest challenges that a firm can face is dealing with its own success. Having taught in the business school for almost a decade with a specific focus on China, I have helped students prepare to manage firms in a high growth phase of development. I would like to share this expertise with Yinghua. My conversational level proficiency in Mandarin along with my general business experience which includes general finance, and commercial property management I feel that I am a strong candidate for the board. In addition to my explicit business expertise, I earned my PhD in from the Department of Education Policy in the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development. The curriculum in this program provided me with a firm grounding in how schools work. The intersection of my business experience and education policy background make me an ideal candidate for the board.

Teacher:

De Hanuman

It is with great enthusiasm and encouragement where I wholeheartedly seek election for the Yinghua Academy School Board. The past four school years I have had the opportunity to witness many successful challenges that our students, families and staff have overcome. We are steering into a smooth direction where only our dreams become reality. From where we started to where we will be, the community needs a strong back bone to continue to be the supportive and nurturing figure that has enlightened hope and promise for the vision of the Dragons. I have worked at Yinghua Academy since December 2008 serving in the capacity at Behavior Specialist, Athletic Coordinator and most recently, as the Physical Education Instructor. In the role as Behavior Specialist, I had the opportunity work with students while the support and redirection focused on Positive Behavior Interventions and Character Education with peer-to-peer interactions through conflict resolution. Within this capacity, I have created the Boy's Group, a positive support system for students to use as a tool for friendship building and behavior accountability. I also served as the Leader of the Q-Comp's, Problem Solving Team, which was a teacher based group supporting teachers with classroom management in Responses to Interventions with their students. It's essential to help students develop socially and emotionally by engaging in daily life lessons that can easily be transformed through everyday adventures. Most importantly, I have had the chance to share my personality and experiences with our students, families and staff with hopes of creating a safe, exciting and influential atmosphere.

There were no team sports for Yinghua Academy in 2008. Just this past spring, there were 118 registrants for our five spring sport offerings. This was just a dream four years ago. Within these four years, I have created a foundation for our Athletics Program to build on. Our middle school teams have the opportunity to travel and compete against other schools and our in house leagues are bursting at the seams to play against the same opponents for years to come. My background in athletics ranges from elementary school coaching to college coaching, most recently as Augsburg College Assistant Football Coach – Wide Receivers in 2011. My love for physical activity and participation only help me support my message in promoting happy students with opportunities to become well-rounded people with the self-esteem and confidence as they become global and bi-lingual citizens. My vision for our students is simple, Give them opportunities and see them grow!

My mission as a Board Member for Yinghua Academy is to 1) help bridge the connections between teachers, administrative staff and the Board of YA, 2) continue to be the supportive and professional individual whom tends to relate well with the community of our school 3) focus on our schools vision with retaining staff and developing a trusting and supportive relationship with the community for years to come.

Parents/Guardians:

Scott Jax

I'd like to formally express my interest in seeking re-election to Yinghua Academy's School Board. My wife (Karin) and I are parents of a Kindergartner and Third Grader this year (2011-2012). I have been very pleased with the immersion learning environment that Yinghua Academy provides all children and would like to help contribute to its future growth and development.

My professional background is in financial services and cooperative industries, having worked at SPIRE Federal Credit Union in Falcon Heights for nearly 19 years in a variety of member service, marketing, planning and administrative capacities. My experience includes participating in and assisting senior management with corporate strategy development and legal and operational research, Board governance, governmental and regulatory affairs efforts at both the state and federal levels, including participation in an industry political involvement committee (10 years). In addition to strategic planning, I now also manage and lead the day-to-day operation of SPIRE's new loyalty program.

Education has been important to me during my entire life. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Finance from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 1993. More recently, I earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix in 2007.

Outside of SPIRE, I have had additional governance experience serving on the Board's for two small credit unions, as a working secretary of The Cooperative Foundation, and also a four year

term on Brooklyn Park's Charter Commission. Over the last three years, I have served on Yinghua's Board of Directors, participating on the personnel, governance and more recently the finance committee, while also serving as Chair of Yinghua's Facility Committee since the Spring of 2010. I was an active participant in Yinghua's Strategic Planning effort in 2011, along with serving on both the Interim and Permanent Executive Director search committees.

On a personal level, my wife and I also previously served as a foster home for the Anoka County Crisis Nursery before we became parents through adoption. We have a strong desire to help our daughters maintain a connection to their Chinese heritage through the many Chinese activities, events, and education opportunities in our metropolitan area.

I would like to continue serving on the Board of Directors of Yinghua Academy not only to support the promising direction led by our new Executive Director but to also continue the work towards developing a viable long-term facility plan.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at:

Yinghua email: scott.jax@yinghuaacademy.org

Home phone: 763.424.6678

Stephanie Olsen

Stephanie Olsen is seeking election to the Yinghua Academy School Board for several reasons, including ensuring increased school stability, sustainability, and continued quality. Stephanie and her husband have two daughters that attend Yinghua Academy (Grace Olsen – 3B, and Faith Olsen – K3). As a Yinghua parent, she volunteers as a Classroom Coordinator and a member of the school "Nutrition Team," contributing to meals for faculty (e.g., parent conference days). The Olsen's are also a host family through the U of M Hospitality Center for Chinese graduate students and professors attending the U of M.

Stephanie has a strong background in public education, charter schools, and Minnesota public policy, which will enable her to be an informed and thoughtful school board member. She is presently employed as the Senior Program Manager of the Volunteers of America (VOA-MN) Charter School Authorizing Program, where she is responsible for providing ongoing support and oversight of VOA-MN's 16 authorized charter schools across Minnesota and holding the schools accountable to their missions, accountability goals, compliance with state and federal laws (including board governance, educator licensing and special education), and maintaining a quality school climate for their constituency (students, parents, and faculty). As an authorizer, she also has experience submitting the necessary documentation to MDE for school expansion approval, as well as providing ongoing oversight of school finances, board and school operations, and employment matters – all significant challenges facing Yinghua. Stephanie is the Acting-Chair of the new Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA) and has experience working with the leadership of the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools.

Prior to VOA-MN, Stephanie worked as an Education Specialist in the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Charter Schools Center where her responsibilities included providing technical assistance to charter school developers, operators and authorizers, as well as promoting quality public school choice in Minnesota by assisting parents and the general public with questions about charter schools. She managed various MDE processes including the Charter School Expansion Process (additional grades and additional site) and facilitated training opportunities for new and existing charter school developers, board members, and authorizers. Stephanie is also a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, during which time Representative Olsen served on the House Education Policy, K-12 Education Finance, and Government Operations Committees. Prior to serving as a state representative, she was employed as a Legislative Education Research Consultant and high school social studies teacher.

Shannon Scanlon

Now that my family is finally emerging from the whirlwind of life-changing events that included the adoption of a toddler followed closely by the birth of a newborn, I am ready to once again roll up my sleeves in service to Yinghua. In the next few paragraphs, I'd like to share a little bit about why I'm interested in this position and what I can offer this organization.

My interest in serving on the Yinghua Academy School Board can be captured in four words: Parker, Finn and Emerson. The boys are in fourth and first grades; the 'baby' is a preschooler at Minnesota Chinese Daycare and Learning Center. By the time our youngest graduates from Yinghua, the school will have been a significant part of our lives for 15 years. For that reason, I feel an obligation and a desire to contribute to the Yinghua community.

That said, what you really need to know is what I can bring to the table. I've spent my career in the energy and financial services industries serving in adult education, program management and leadership roles. This experience has honed my ability to manage a diverse team while balancing the interests of enterprise-wide stakeholders, including senior leaders. My efforts in my current position have resulted in distinguished recognition for overhauling an educational program that serves nearly 20,000 employees, which now focuses on creating/changing key behaviors while also providing targeted training to business lines.

My experience that corresponds to the changing needs of Yinghua comes from serving as Executive Chairman of Wakota Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER). In this non-profit leadership role, I partnered with leaders from government agencies and regional industries to execute a cooperative emergency preparedness and response model; supported the implementation of a spill response training program that continues to be leveraged by the public and private sectors; facilitated executive committee and general membership meetings; and managed the administrative staff. Prior to that, I served as the organization's Communication Director.

If you've read this far, you will be able to determine whether my candidacy is worthy of consideration. If you agree that what I bring to the table is what the Yinghua Academy School Board needs at the table, cast your vote for me in June.

Daniel White

I am an Analyst in the Office of Institutional Research at the University of Minnesota where I provide statistical and policy analysis to support administrative decision-making for the University system. Specifically, I am responsible for providing research support and policy recommendations on a variety of higher education issues related to student success in college and graduate school. My experience in institutional research has also afforded me opportunities to provide market research, enrollment and revenue projections, and mathematical modeling of higher education institutions, their processes, and environment. These experiences provide many of the skills requisite of a strong school board member including: the ability to analyze education related data, assess and evaluate policy, make recommendations for strategic improvement, and effectively communicate complex information to diverse constituencies.

With both a second grader and kindergartener enrolled at Yinghua Academy, our family has benefited greatly from the opportunities that Yinghua affords. We have witnessed our children grow both socially and academically and more importantly, achieve strong bilingual skills, something few other students in MN are able to achieve during their school day. Serving on the Yinghua Academy School Board provides me an opportunity to give back to the school.

Yinghua Academy has changing needs and I would be willing to serve those needs as they arrive. However, the areas that interest me currently would be school facilities and academic success including, but not limited to, curriculum and teacher retention. While school facilities have been a need in the past for Yinghua, it is an area that will continue to require attention in the next 12 months as the school continues to grow. Additionally, while I am very impressed with Yinghua Academy's curriculum, I believe that continuing to address this issue proactively will help ensure that the school produces students that are prepared for high school and beyond.

