

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Retreat Minutes

Saturday, November 3, 2019 1:00 p.m.

Village Lofts

100 2nd St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Board Members in Attendance: Lisa Matre (Chair), Amanda Schneider (Treasurer), Nathan Bode (Secretary), Cindy Bursell, Brooke Darrah-Hage, Paul Haller, Kaishan Kong, Joel Luedtke, Cindy Moeller, Erica Rasmussen, Suzanne Reider, Charles Robinson and Jane Steiner

Board Members Not in Attendance: None.

Executive Director in Attendance: Sue Berg

Public in Attendance: Jon Gutierrez (departed at 3:05 pm)

I. WELCOME / OVERVIEW (4 minutes)

Ms. Matre called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Ms. Berg introduced Mr. Gutierrez from St. Croix Preparatory Academy, a Minnesota public charter school located in Stillwater, MN. Mr. Gutierrez has been the Executive Director at St. Croix Prep since it opened in 2004.

II. THROUGH THE ADOPTION CURVE (116 minutes)

Mr. Gutierrez presented to the Board on how the technology Adoption Curve can be used to analyze school growth. He spent time using the Adoption Curve concept to present where St. Croix Prep is at on their journey along the curve. This led to discussion of where Yinghua Academy is on the curve and different types of issues one encounters at different points on the curve. There were many similarities between his experiences at St. Croix Prep and Yinghua Academy.

BREAK (20 minutes)

III. STRATEGIC PLAN (51 minutes)

The current Strategic Plan was discussed by the Board. There could be a need for a new plan beyond this school year since it is estimated for completion at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. There are various options to consider; extending the current plan, modifying the current plan or creating a new one. Ms. Berg gave status updates on some of the initiatives in the strategic plan. This led to a discussion on how to determine which initiatives were done. Ms. Berg will be presenting status on all the

initiatives in the Strategic Plan at an upcoming school board meeting in December or January. The Board will use that information in deciding which option to pursue in defining the new strategic plan.

BREAK (6 minutes)

IV. EQUITY (43 minutes)

Ms. Matre lead off the discussion on equity by referencing a paper entitled 'A Statewide Crisis: Minnesota's Education Achievement Gaps' published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Ms. Berg highlighted some sections in the paper that explains variations in school effectiveness and highlighted how Yinghua Academy is actively doing many of them. There was discussion on defining what Equity meant to the School Board. This led to a discussion on the Board wanting more data regarding the Achievement Gap at the school. Next steps on the topic include the Board looking at the Achievement Gap data in detail to ensure the school is doing everything it can to help each child.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 11/18/2019