

**YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, July 20, 2020 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99251323666>, Meeting ID: 992 513 23666

**Board Members in Attendance:** Amanda Schneider (Chair), Suzanne Reider (Treasurer), Nathan Bode (Secretary), Cindy Bursell, Eric Foster, Brooke Darrah-Hage, Paul Haller, Joel Luedtke, Cindy Moeller, Joel O'Malley, Evan Owens, Erica Rasmussen and Charles Robinson

**Board Members Not in Attendance:**

**Executive Director in Attendance:** Susan Berg

**YACA Representative in Attendance:** Becky Wright

**Public in Attendance:** Abigail Pribbenow

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. APPROVALS (4 minutes)

a. 7/20/2020 Agenda

Ms. Schneider presented the agenda.

**The MOTION by Ms. Reider to approve the agenda was seconded and passed.**

b. 6/15/2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Schneider presented the minutes for the June Board meeting. Minor edits were recommended by Ms. Bursell.

**The MOTION by Ms. Bursell to approve the minutes as amended was seconded and passed. Mr. Foster, Mr. Owens, Mr. O'Malley abstained.**

III. FINANCE / FACILITIES UPDATE (6 minutes)

a. June Financials

Ms. Reider summarized current financials, which are 100% complete for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Expenditures are at 100%, revenues are at 99%. There is currently a total net

loss of \$115,005 across all funds. The loss in Fund 02 will be reduced as some money will be reimbursed from the food vendor. The loss in Fund 04 is due to no aftercare revenue, but the school continued to pay the afterschool staff.

IV. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (10 minutes)

Dr. Haller gave an update on the polices on the 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Summarized the readings, both 1<sup>st</sup> and 3 reading policies.

Ms. Berg explained the policy review process to new board members.

a. Policies – 3<sup>rd</sup> Readings

- a. 413- Harassment and Violence
- b. 506- Student Discipline
- c. 514- Bullying Prohibition
- d. 522- Student Sex Nondiscrimination
- e. 524- Internet Acceptable Use and Safety
- f. 524- Form for Internet Acceptable Use and Safety
- g. 532- Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Team
- h. 709- Student Transportation Safety

b. Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

- a. 419 – Tobacco Free Environment
- b. 417 – Chemical Use and Abuse
- c. 501 – School Weapons Policy
- d. 406 – Form – Public and Private Personnel Data
- e. 406 – Public and Private Personnel Data

**The MOTION by Ms. Darrah-Hage to approve the Yinghua Academy Policies 413, 506, 514, 522, 524, 524 Form, 532 and 709 was seconded and passed.**

V. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (9 minutes)

Ms. Moeller gave an update on the latest Personnel Committee. Yinghua’s teachers and staff have participated in a book club in recent years. An idea proposed is that Board Members will also participate in a book club this year with the focus on equity. Ms. Berg explained how she was currently considering four books on the equity topic. Two books

under consideration are “White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism” and “So You Want to Talk About Race”. Ms. Berg will provide an update on the what book is decided upon for the book club.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (75 minutes)

Ms. Berg gave an update on staffing and planning for upcoming school year. There have been three resignations from Chinese teachers due to the global pandemic and civil unrest in Minneapolis. The school’s authorizer, Friends of Education, has hired a lawyer to interpret the upcoming Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) guidance for the upcoming school year. Yinghua Academy will need to provide distance learning for the families requesting that option. Ms. Berg recommends adding 5 additional teachers for the upcoming school year due to the additional workload and uncertainty about the upcoming school year. There were a number of questions and discussion about this request.

**The MOTION by Ms. Reider to approve \$285,000 additional expense to hire 5 additional teachers for a one year contract was seconded and passed. Mr. O’Malley abstained**

Ms. Berg gave a preliminary update on the Parent survey that closes tonight. Overall there were positive responses from the parents. Some parents are concerned about sending their kids back to school while other parents want to be able to send their kids back to school. A number of parents with medical concerns have reached out to the school nurse.

Ms. Berg explained that there has been a lot of applications for the open roles. This year’s staff workshops will be dedicated to teacher planning for the upcoming school year. There was a lot of discussion on the planning being done on the different hybrid model. The decision next week by the governor is key to further planning.

Mr. Luedtke gave an update on a parent survey regarding distance learning from his current job. The focus of the survey was on how lower income families are experiencing distance learning. There were a number of themes from the survey including a request for; more synchronous learning, standardized & simplification of distance learning platforms, parent orientation on how to be co-educators and social interaction with student’s peers.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minutes)

Ms. Wright provided an update that YACA has had initial discussions about doing a book club focused on racism. There will be more to come on this idea.

IX. ADJOURN

Ms. Schneider concluded the meeting.

**The MOTION by Mr. Luedtke to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. was seconded and passed.**

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 8/17/2020