

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 22, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92414699033>, ID 92414699033

Board Members in Attendance: Amanda Schneider (Chair), Suzanne Reider (Treasurer), Nathan Bode (Secretary), Cindy Bursell (arrived at 6:20 p.m. and left at 7:20 p.m.), 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: None

Executive Director in Attendance: Susan Berg

YACA Representative in Attendance: Vanessa Beckett (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)

Public in Attendance: Abigail Pribbenow, Shannon Hinz, J. DeVon Nolen, Erica Drake

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVALS (5 minutes)

a. 2/22/2021 Agenda

Ms. Schneider presented the agenda.

The MOTION by Dr. Haller to approve the agenda was seconded and passed.

b. 1/25/2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Schneider presented the minutes for the January Board meeting. A minor edit was recommended by Ms. Berg.

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

III. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (11 minutes)

Ms. Moeller gave an update on the Executive Director performance review process for this year. Last year the Executive Director performance review process was simplified due to the pandemic. This year the Personnel Committee has decided to return to a more formal review process. The committee will ask for feedback from Board Members,

Board Committees, and the school's administrative team. Ms. Schneider provided additional background on how the performance review has been facilitated in prior years.

IV. FINANCE / FACILITIES UPDATE (21 minutes)

a. January Financials

Ms. Reider summarized the current financials, which are 58% complete for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Expenditures are at 56% and revenues are at 55% of the annual budget. There is currently a total net loss of \$116,762 across all funds. Funds 02 and 04 represents most of the losses.

b. 2020/2021 Budget Revision

Ms. Reider provided background information on the current approved budget. That budget did not include the additional 5 teachers that were hired last fall. She next presented a revised budget that includes adjustments to a lower enrollment of 841, additions for CARES and CRF Revenue and number of expense adjustments. Fund 02 and Fund 04 have the most significant changes to both revenue and expenses. The Board discussed the impact of the budget changes. The revised budget also includes projected forecasted revenue and expenses based on a majority of students in term III being in-person learning mode which mainly impacts fund 02 and fund 04.

The MOTION by Mr. Bode to approve the revised budget was seconded and passed.

V. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (10 minutes)

Dr. Haller mentioned there have been no changes to the 3rd Policy readings since the last Board meeting. Mr. O'Malley expressed concerns about Policy 430. The suggestion by Dr. Haller was to take that policy back to the Governance committee for further review.

a. Policies – 3rd Reading

a. 430 – Reporting Unethical Illegal Activities

b. 533 – Wellness

The MOTION by Mr. O'Malley to approve Policy 533 was seconded and passed.

b. Board Seat Election Update

Dr. Haller mentioned that there are several interested candidates to fill the 5 open Board seats this year. A letter will be sent out to explain application process and deadlines.

VII. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (1 minute)

Ms. Luedtke gave a brief update on the Red Envelope Campaign that is taking place until February 27. He thanked people for participating in the on-line event on Sunday, February 21.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (38 minutes)

Ms. Berg summarized her most recent Executive Director's Report. She first thanked people for presenting at the Red Envelope on-line event this past Sunday. She went on to explain there has been a lot of discussion regarding the pathway forward until the end of the school year. Previous guidance from the Minnesota governor and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) had been to return no more than 3 grades all in-person at a time spaced out every two weeks. Yinghua had plans in place to do that first for grades K-1 and followed two weeks later for grades 2-4. There is new guidance that all students can now go back at once.

The school can continue with a previous plan if there was one in place. The school administration has decided to continue with their plan for grades K-4. The school has decided to move up the return of Middle School to full-time to April 5th. The final survey results for Learning Model Choice where 635 students selected the Hybrid Learning model, and 206 students selected the All-Distance option. There was support by the School Board of bringing kids back on the revised timeline.

Ms. Berg mentioned that the vaccination process changed after two weeks. Now teachers are interacting directly with MDE and not going through the school. Ms. Berg described how she has been amazed by what both teachers and students have done regarding Chinese New Year activities. She was also impressed with filming done of the Chinese New Year performances by Joe Berglove from WCCO.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (13 minutes)

J. Devon Nolen expressed immense gratitude to the Board and School leaders during the past year. Their family is excited for in-person learning. There was a request for students to have an opportunity to process the past year's events and the return to school. She also thanked the school for continuing with the Chinese New Year events.

Ms. Berg responded that families could contact school counselor Tracy Sanders to help with processing going back to school fulltime. Ms. Sanders is available for one-on-one counseling.

Ms. Drake gave an update on the donations to teachers during Chinese New Year. The donations in most cases were double the amount compared to recent years.

IX. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Ms. Schneider concluded the meeting.

The MOTION Ms. Darrah-Hage to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 3/22/2021