

## **YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, August 16, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/93925986113> Meeting ID 939 259 86113

**Board Members in Attendance:** Amanda Schneider (Chair), Suzanne Reider (Treasurer), Nathan Bode (Secretary), Cindy Bursell, Ye Cheng, Eric Foster, Paul Haller, Andrew Lawton, Cindy Moeller, and Evan Owens

**Board Members Not in Attendance:** Charles Robinson and Yinglu Zeglin

**Executive Director in Attendance:** Susan Berg

**YACA Representative in Attendance:** Melody Ng

**Public in Attendance:** Abe, btuttle, Eric Grumdahl, Vu, Thien, Micheal, Dr. Lien, Jennifer Olson, Ginger Hao, Ersu Kucuckiftici, and Airika's iPhone

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **II. APPROVALS (8 minutes)**

##### **a. 8/16/2021 Agenda**

Ms. Schneider presented the agenda. Ms. Berg asked for additional agenda items; Staff Leave of Absence, Family Leave of Absence, and policy to reviews. The policies are YA-005 Student Leave of Absence, YA-009-COVID-19 Related Quarantines and YA-013-COVID-19 Related Face Coverings.

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

##### **b. 6/21/2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Schneider presented the minutes for the June Board meeting. Minor edits were recommended by Ms. Moeller and Ms. Berg.

##### **c. 7/12/2021 Special Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Schneider presented the minutes for the July special Board meeting.

**The MOTION by Dr. Haller to approve the June minutes and July special minutes was seconded and passed.**

III. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (88 minutes)

a. Open Board Seat Appointments

Dr. Haller recommended that Ersu Kucuckciftici fill the open board seat.

**The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve Ersu Kucuckciftici to fill a 2-year open term was seconded and passed.**

b. Policies – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading

Dr. Haller mentioned the background on policies. He went on to highlight Policy 306 up for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading had no changes since last Board meeting. Decision to approve Policy 306 and defer decision on Policy 007 - Professional Conduct.

**The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve Policy 306 was seconded and passed.**

c. Public Access to Zoom Board/Committee Meetings

Dr. Haller provided an update on Open Meeting Laws. The Minnesota state emergency ended July 1, 2021. This means that Board meetings need comply with Open Meeting Law within 60 days after the end of the emergency center. Dr. Haller recommended that the Yinghua Media Center be public meeting site.

d. Gender Inclusion Policy

Dr. Haller gave background on the lawsuit with the Hennepin-Anoka school district. The court decision stated that a student must be allowed to access to bathroom of their gender identity. Yinghua Academy must offer bathrooms that comply with the court decision. Regarding sports all Yinghua Academy sport offerings are co-ed.

Ms. Berg gave more background on the Gender Inclusion Policy. Yinghua Academy developed the current Gender Inclusion policy back in 2016. Yinghua currently working to modify the middle school bathrooms to be compliant with recent lawsuits.

Ms. Schneider provided additional background including discussions with the school's authorizer.

e. School Safety in the Covid Pandemic

Dr. Haller gave an overview on the Covid Procedure letter that came out from Ginger Hao the school nurse. Included in the communication was that the Board would be

reviewing a mask policy. Dr. Haller recommended that the Board approve policies YA-009-COVID-19 Related Quarantines and YA-013-COVID-19 Related Face Coverings. These policies follow Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidance. Ms. Berg explained that these are model policies drafted by school's legal counsel. Ms. Hao gave an update that the school will be following guidance from MDH. These two new policies only apply to the upcoming school year.

**The MOTION by Mr. Lawton for an emergency approval of Policy YA-009, YA-013 and Face Covering Exemption Form was seconded and passed.**

f. Student Leave of Absence – Policy YA-005

Ms. Berg gave background on the current Student Leave of Absence policy. The original intent of the policy was to provide an “opportunity to live or study outside of the Yinghua enrollment area” while maintaining enrollment at the school. Ms. Berg is requesting that additional eligibility is added for the upcoming 2021-2022 school due to the COVID-19 pandemic based on medical reasons. There are additional updates to the policy regarding putting together an educational plan for the upcoming school year. In addition, the school will offer a bi-weekly check-in if desired by the family. Discussion around the topic followed.

**The MOTION by Ms. Reider for an emergency approval of Policy YA-005 was seconded and passed.**

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (11 minutes)

Ms. Berg requested a Leave of Absence for a staff member.

**The MOTION by Dr. Haller to approve the staff leave of absence was seconded and approved.**

Ms. Berg Requested a Leave of Absence for the Kim family for another four months.

**The MOTION by Ms. Bursell to approve the student leave of absence was seconded and approved.**

Ms. Berg summarized her most recent Executive Director's Report. She highlighted that enrollment is steady and mini-summer camps are underway for kindergarteners to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. In the recent development committee meeting, a theme a theme of “Rebuilding Relationships: Faces and Spaces” was discussed. All open staff positions are filled for the upcoming school year. New staff start this Wednesday and returning staff next week. Staff development workshops included Responsive Classroom sessions on: “Addressing Middle School Challenges (for middle school teachers) and “Strategies to Prevent Bullying” a session for K-6 teachers and administrators.

V. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (9 minutes)

Mr. Owens gave an update on the Development Committee. The committee reviewed the development cycle. The plan is to do a fall fundraising event like last year. The recommendation is that fall fundraising be focused on outside space enhancements. The committee will partner with YACA on the fundraising event.

VI. MED – IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY (IOWA) (2 minutes)

Ms. Schneider recommended that Susan Berg be Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Yinghua Academy Identified Official with Authority.

**The MOTION by Ms. Bursell to approve Mrs. Berg as the Minnesota Department of Education Identified Official with Authority was seconded and passed.**

VII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE (3 minutes)

Ms. Moeller provided an update from the Personnel Committee. The committee is following up on the concern around Board members not knowing enough about HR matters. The personnel committee is looking to do a school climate survey again in the spring.

VIII. FINANCE / FACILITIES UPDATE (4 minutes)

Ms. Reider summarized the current financials, which are 8% complete for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Expenditures are at 4% and revenues are at 7% of the annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$335,165 across all funds. The final numbers for prior year will be presented in an upcoming meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (6 minutes)

A question arose per the chat on the Gender Inclusion policy. Ms. Schneider clarified that we reviewed at tonight's meeting but did not make any changes to it at this time.

Michael McCarthy provided his views on masks. He requested that evidence supporting masks be sent to him. He voiced his concerns on children's safety if everyone is wearing masks.

Another question arose per the chat regarding if a family didn't want to follow a leave of absence policy for attending Yinghua remotely. The recommendation is to contact the school administration on the specific scenario.

X. ADJOURN (2 minutes)

Ms. Schneider concluded the meeting.

**The MOTION by Mr. Owens to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was seconded and passed.**

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 09/20/2021