

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 28, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Yinghua Academy Media Center: 1616 Buchanan St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Board Members in Attendance: Paul Haller (Chair), Charles Robinson (Treasurer), Nathan Bode (Secretary), Ye Cheng, V John Ella, Eric Foster, Esra Kucukciftci, Andrew Lawton, Cindy Moeller, Evan Owens, Amanda Schneider, and Yinglu Zeglin

Board Members Not in Attendance: Cindy Bursell

Executive Director in Attendance: Susan Berg

YACA Representative in Attendance: Arwin Chan (arrived at 6:28 p.m.)

Public in Attendance: Dr. Lien, Dr. Chu

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Haller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. APPROVALS (11 minutes)

a. 2/28/2022 Agenda

Dr. Haller presented the agenda. Ms. Berg requested an additional agenda item for a student leave of absence.

The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve the agenda as amended was seconded and passed.

b. 1/13/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the January Board meeting. Minor edits were recommended by Ms. Berg, Ms. Schneider, and Mr. Robinson.

The MOTION by Mr. Ella to approve the January meeting minutes as amended was seconded and passed.

c. Student Leave of Absence Request

Ms. Berg presented a leave of absence request for a family of four students. Ms. Berg and Dr. Lien recommended approving the leave of absence request.

The MOTION by Ms. Kucukciftci to approve the Leave of Absence request was seconded and passed.

III. Drop Box Update (9 minutes)

Dr. Chu presented background information on the previous decision by the Board to use Dropbox for document storage. He recommended converting to Google Drive. There was discussion about requirements by the Personnel Committee to restrict documents access. A decision to switch was deferred until the requirements could be confirmed in Google Drive.

IV. Friends of Education Report (31 minutes)

Dr. Lien presented on the report to Friends of Education regarding students falling behind. The report included how the school identified students falling behind. It also included how Yinghua provided additional assistance to students falling behind including during the 2021 summer and during the current school year.

V. Mask Wearing (28 minutes)

Dr. Haller gave an update regarding masking wearing. Ms. Berg and Ginger Hao have been looking into what are target metrics to stop wearing masks. Ms. Berg provided an update on a staff survey taken regarding if mask wearing were to be optional by students. While currently 42% of the staff would be comfortable with that option, 58% would be uncomfortable. The responses were similar for giving staff the option to wear masks.

Ms. Berg mentioned that in just the past week there have been new guidelines regarding mask wearing from the CDC and the MDE. In addition, Minneapolis has removed their mask mandate.

There was a recommendation for the Governance committee to review and update the current Mask Policy at their upcoming meeting. They will present their recommendation at the March Board meeting. In addition, the Board recommend a communication be sent to the school community about potential mask wearing requirements.

VI. FINANCE / FACILITIES UPDATE (2 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 58% complete for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Expenditures are at 57% and revenues are at 56% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$107,30 across all funds. Student enrollment is currently at 838 while budget is based 835 students. Mr. Robinson commented that the budget process for the next fiscal year will be starting and to expect a presentation at an upcoming Board meeting.

VII. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (5 minutes)

Mr. Ella presented Policy 415, Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse, which was up for third reading.

The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve Policy 415, Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse, was seconded and passed.

He went on to present Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Student Records, which was a first reading.

Mr. Ella provided an update on the upcoming School Board election and that a call for candidate has gone out. He made a request from the Board committees on who potentially needs additional members.

VIII. CHARTER SCHOOL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES (10 minutes)

Ms. Berg gave update on grant opportunities. The MDE Charter Center announced the Spring 2022 Expansion/Replication and Start-Up grant competition. Yinghua is one of just 22 charter schools able to compete due to its High-Quality Charter School standing. The Start-Up and Expansion/Replications grants provide federal financial assistance for the planning, program design and initial implementation of new and expanding or replicating charter schools. Currently Yinghua is not pursuing the grant opportunities.

IX. EXIT INTERVIEW LETTER (29 minutes)

Dr. Haller mentioned that Personnel Committee has reviewed the exit interview letter from a former staff member and responded to the sender. Ms. Moeller provided background on the actions taken in the Personnel Committee. This discussion continued into the agenda item.

X. AUTONOMY OF BOARD COMMITTEES (continuation)

There was discussion by the Board about the distinction between Board and Committee work, the authority of Committees and what requires entire Board approvals. It was also mentioned that there would be an upcoming School Climate Survey to gather input from the entire Yinghua community.

Mr. Owens provided a brief update on the Red Envelope campaign that runs from February 12 to March 19th. There has been over \$21,000 raised to date.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (8 minutes)

Mr. Berg summarized key items from her Executive Director's Report. The Student Enrollment Lottery was held on Saturday, February 19th. There is a review of the Homebound Services being done by Dr. Lien. A decision was made to cancel all Term 2 enrichment classes due to staffing shortages. Ms. Berg was happy to have the new Dean of Students, Mr. Pobloske, onboarded. Ms. Berg and Dr. Lien continue to work toward the Executive Director transition.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes)

Mr. Chan mentioned that she always found the meeting interested and thanked everyone.

XIII. ADJOURN (2 minutes)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Kucukciftci to adjourn 8:18 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 3/21/2022