

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 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), Cindy Bursell, Ye Cheng, V John Ella, Eric Foster, Esra Kucukciftci (left at 7:48 p.m.), Cindy Moeller, Evan Owens, Amanda Schneider, and Yinglu Zeglin

Board Members Not in Attendance: Andrew Lawton

Executive Director in Attendance: Susan Berg

YACA Representative in Attendance: Melody Ng

Public in Attendance: Dr. Lien, Pin Chen Huang, Eric Clemeutson, Paul Landahl, and Xiaoyan Sun

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVALS (5 minutes)

a. 3/21/2022 Agenda

Dr. Haller presented the agenda.

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

b. 2/28/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the February Board meeting. Minor edits were recommended by Ms. Moeller, Ms. Bursell, and Mr. Berg.

The MOTION by Ms. Schneider to approve the February meeting minutes as amended was seconded and passed.

III. MASK WEARING (54 minutes)

Dr. Haller gave an update regarding mask wearing. His recommendation was to remove the current mask policy. Mr. Ella gave more background and updates from Governance Committee. There was lengthy discussion around the impact of suspending the mask policy. The conversation focused on impacts to both staff and students.

The MOTION by Dr. Haller to suspend Policy YA-13 as of March 30 was seconded and passed. Ms. Cheng voted no.

The Board worked together on creating Policy YA-015, Suspension of COVID-19 Related Face Coverings.

The MOTION by Nathan Bode to approve Policy YA-015 was seconded and passed.

IV. TEACHER COMPENTATION (23 minutes)

Dr. Haller introduced the topic of teacher compensation. Ms. Cheng provided her insight on salary compensation in relation to teacher retention. She presented and requested ideas on how to come up with additional funding. Ms. Moeller provided background on how Yinghua Academy's revenue options are limited compared to traditional public schools. The reasons include not having property tax authority and a lower percentage of students on free and reduced lunch program. She suggested the Board look for more revenue options and to look at cutting other expenses. There was discussion around reaching out Friends of Education about reducing the current fund balance percentage requirements of 25 percent.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION (2 minutes)

Ms. Moeller gave background on Executive Director evaluation done in the past. She requested feedback from Board members on how to handle this year's Executive Director evaluation considering the fact of Ms. Berg is retiring at the end of the academic year.

VI. FINANCE / FACILITIES UPDATE (2 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 67% complete for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Expenditures are at 64% and revenues are at 65% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$106,616, across all funds. He went on to add that student enrollment is down 4 students based on approved budget. The school was awarded a supply chain grant to use for fresh fruit. He ended by mentioning that a draft of the next year's budget will be presented at next month's meeting.

VII. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (3 minutes)

Mr. Ella presented Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Student Records, which was up for a second reading. He also provided an update on the candidates for the upcoming School Board election. There were 5 applicants with three current Board members running for reelection, one parent running and one community member.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (7 minutes)

Mr. Owens gave an update on Red Envelope campaign that has concluded. There has been \$40,821 from 1,600 letters sent and 300 phone calls place. This led to a discussion about the south courtyard project. There was a recommendation to proceed with the project if the updated quote from the landscape architect does not exceed \$120,000.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (15 minutes)

Ms. Berg summarized key items from her Executive Director's Report. There is a plan for Peace buttons in support of World Peace that will be handed out next week to students. Ms. Berg and Dr. Lien have been reviewing report cards. They have tried to remove pronouns and names in the comments section. Ms. Berg went on to provide an update on the new school newspaper called the Yinghua Post. Middle schoolers are working with Bethel University students in the creation of the newspaper. She also mentioned that there has been discussion with Jeff Prouty and his company regarding strategic planning.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT (0 minutes)

None

XIII. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Mr. Ella to adjourn 7:52 p.m. was seconded and passed.

1Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 04/19/2022