

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 18, 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, Cindy Moeller, Evan Owens, Amanda Schneider, and Yinglu Zeglin

Board Members Not in Attendance: Eric Foster, Esra Kucukciftci, and Andrew Lawton

Executive Director in Attendance: Susan Berg

YACA Representative in Attendance: Melody Ng

Public in Attendance: Dr. Lien, Kenny Chan, Paul Landahl, and Xiaoyan Sun

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Haller called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. APPROVALS (36 minutes)

a. 4/18/2022 Agenda

Dr. Haller presented the agenda. He requested another approval for Charter School Program letter.

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

b. 3/21/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

c. 3/16/2022 Closed Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the Closed Board meeting. Minor edit was recommended by Ms. Bursell.

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

d. Student Medical Leave of Absence

Ms. Berg requested a student medical leave of absence for 8th grade student.

The MOTION by Mr. Ella to approve the Student Medical Leave of Absence requests was seconded and passed.

e. Policy 515 – Protection and Privacy of Student Records

Dr. Haller made a recommendation to approve Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Student Records.

The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve Policy 515 was seconded and passed.

f. Tax Form 990, year ending June 2021

Dr. Haller presented Yinghua Academy's most recent Form 990 tax return.

The MOTION by Ms. Schneider to approve the Yinghua Academy's most recent Form 990 tax return was seconded and passed.

g. Charter School Program update

Ms. Moeller gave background on legislative action happening with the Charter School Program (CSP). The latest proposal would limit the ability for new charter schools to start. There is a request by Joe Nathan from the Center for School Change to share a letter written by Ms. Moeller. She was requesting input from the entire Board. It was decided that a formal approval was not needed for Ms. Moeller to send a letter.

Ms. Berg also provided background on the letter she wrote in support of charter schools. In it she explained that charter schools drive innovation in education and offer another option for students.

III. Special Education Service update (26 minutes)

Kenny Chan, Yinghua's Special Education Director, provided an overview of the special education services at Yinghua Academy. He presented statics that there are currently 68

students or about 8% of the student population that receive special education services at Yinghua. He went on to introduce the special education staff.

Mr. Chan provided background on a student's Individual Education Program (IEP). The IEP defines learning goals for a student and services offered by the school to support the student. An IPE meeting will include the following participants: parents, regular teacher, district representative and special education teacher. Mr. Chan explained how the school is using supportive technology such as the Lexia tool. He also explained how funding for the services are reimbursed by the student's home district school.

IV. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (21 minutes)

Mr. Ella introduced Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy). The policy has been updated from Minnesota School Board Association. The policy applies to Yinghua's property and on campus activities.

Mr. Ella also provided an election update where there are five candidates running and they will be asked to give a brief speech at the Annual meeting next Thursday.

V. CHINESE AMBASSADOR VISIT TO YINGHUA (17 minutes)

Dr. Lien presented that Yinghua Academy has the honor to host the Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. next Monday, April 25. The Chinese Embassy has recognized Yinghau's Academy through many recent awards won by the school and students. An example is where fourth grader, Zoey Cardamone, traveled to the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C. as part of her award for winning the "My Questions to Taikonauts" video contest. There was discussion on the impact of hosting the Ambassador considering current world events.

VI. FINANCE / FACILITIES UPDATE (22 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 75% complete for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Expenditures are at 73% and revenues are at 74% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$50,658, across all funds.

Mr. Robinson went on to present a draft Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. The budget is based off 835 students for the upcoming fiscal year. It includes a 3% salary increases 1% bonus for staff. The budget led into a discussion on the fund balance requirements. Friends of Education still recommends 25%. There was discussion on alternatives ways to compensate teachers including appreciation days and covering 100% of the staff benefits.

The Finance Committee will continue to revise the budget and it will be presented again at the next Board meeting. The budget needs to be approved by the end of June.

VII. ANNUAL MEETING (2 minutes)

Dr. Haller mentioned the upcoming Annual meeting. The meeting is considered an official Board meeting.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (10 minutes)

Ms. Berg provided an update from her most recent Executive Director's Report. Everyone is excited about academic performance again this year. The Board retreat has been postponed until September. The school has engaged Enrollhand, a social media marketing company with a focus on boosting enrollment, to help increase awareness of Yinghua in digital spaces. The school is planning another School Climate Survey that is set to go out soon to parents, students, and staff. It will be like the last survey allowing comparisons to be done.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (0 minutes)

None

X. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

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

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 05/16/2022