

## **YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 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), Ye Cheng, V John Ella, Andrew Lawton, Cindy Moeller, Evan Owens, Amanda Schneider, and Yinglu Zeglin

**Board Members Not in Attendance:**

**Executive Director in Attendance:** Dr. Lien

**YACA Representative in Attendance:** Gloria Low

**Public in Attendance:** Barbara Knott, Claire Little (left at 6:49 p.m.), Janel Bitzan (left at 6:27 p.m.)

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

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

#### **II. APPROVALS (12 minutes)**

##### **a. 11/21/2022 Agenda**

Dr. Haller presented the agenda. Mr. Ella asked for clarification if the Annual report was included in the agenda. The Annual Report was added as an approval item.

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

##### **b. 10/17/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the October Board meeting. Minor edits were recommended by Ms. Moeller.

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

#### **III. AUDIT OF 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR (15 minutes)**

Ms. Bitzan from Bergan KDV summarized the most recent audit of Yinghua Academy's finances. The auditor's issued three reports that were all unmodified opinion:

Independent Auditor's Report, Report on Internal Control and Minnesota Legal Compliance. She commented on Yinghua's Average Daily Membership (ADM) dropped slightly this past fiscal year.

The General Fund had a small net profit at \$37,636. The General Fund balance increased from 27.6% to 28.0%. The Food Service Fund was up significantly due to reimbursement from the Federal government. The Community Service Fund had a negative balance for second year in a row.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (5 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 33% complete for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The current student enrollment is 830 students. Expenditures are at 29% and revenues are at 33% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$369,310 across all funds.

V. WORLD'S BEST WORKFORCE REPORT (18 minutes)

Dr. Hall introduced the background on Yinghua's Annual Report. Ms. Little is responsible for the compilation of the Annual Report. The Annual Report will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education and Yinghua's authorizer, Friends of Education. Ms. Little was present to take suggestions and corrections. This year the report once again included the World's Best Workforce. The Board reviewed the Annual Report and gave minor edit suggestions to Ms. Little.

**The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report as amended while allowing for minor edits by Ms. Little was seconded and passed.**

VI. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (15 minutes)

Mr. Owens gave an update on the fall fundraiser. The fundraiser letter is done and will go to the printer on Wednesday. There are callers lined up to call potential donors. There will also be a request in the weekly newsletter for volunteers to help call. This year the plan is to call more people including new parents, people who donated previously and parents with kids in lower school that have donated. The online donations will go to the Yinghua Foundation while physical money will go directly to the school.

Mr. Owen went on to give an update on the adhoc Playground committee. There is a meeting scheduled for next Monday. The committee feels it has good contacts at the Minneapolis Park Board. Mr. Owen went on to mention that there are several parents interested in helping with the topic.

VII. CURRENT ISSUES (30 minutes)

Ms. Moeller gave an update on a few different topics. She mentioned the Cruz Guzman Case has been in the news recently. The case claims that persistent school segregation effectively denies Minnesota children an adequate education. The case could potentially impact Minnesota Charter schools including Yinghua depending on the outcome.

Ms. Moeller went on to give an update on the fundraising strategy work she has been pursuing. She mentioned the general funding per pupil from the Audit report update was useful information. She will be meeting with YACA and Dr. Lien tomorrow regarding a presentation she is developing to help the fundraising work.

Ms. Moeller presented an updated list of consultants for the Strategic Planning work along with her recommendations. The Board members agreed with pursuing further talks with the Prouty Project and Transformation Systems.

VIII. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (3 minutes)

Mr. Ella mentioned that two policies were up for second readings and have no changes since the last Board meeting: Policy 414, Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse, and Policy 504, Student Dress and Appearance. He went on to mention he is working on a memo for new Board members to help with onboarding.

IX. BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS (6 minutes)

Dr. Haller mentioned the upcoming Board officer elections at the December Board meeting. Dr. Haller plans to run again for the Board Chair position. Ms. Moeller is also running for the Board Chair. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Bode mentioned that they would be willing to serve in their current positions as Treasurer and Secretary if no one else is interested in the positions.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (20 minutes)

Dr. Lien highlighted a few items in her most recent Executive Director's Report. The current school enrollment is 830 students. There were two students that made it the final round in of the Chinese Bridge International Competition. Yinghua students also participated in the National China Expo where 35 Yinghua students were selected.

Dr. Lien provided background on the changes to the pink, grey and red bus routes. There were additional stops added to support students getting to school. She went on to mention the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades retreat on November 4<sup>th</sup> was a success. The 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grades retreats is upcoming on December 8 to 9<sup>th</sup>. The Yinghua staff enjoyed a

Thanksgiving Dinner that included playing Bingo. The event was sponsored by YACA. The kindergarten recruitment is underway through various media. She concluded her update by mentioning that parent-teacher conference attendance was high.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minutes)

Ms. Knott gave positive feedback regarding the grey bus communication.

XII. ADJOURN (2 minute)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

**The MOTION by Mr. Robinson to adjourn 8:08 p.m. was seconded and passed.**

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 12/19/2022