

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 19, 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 (remote), V John Ella (remote), Evan Owens and Amanda Schneider (remote)

Board Members Not in Attendance: Andrew Lawton, Cindy Moeller and Yinglu Zeglin

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Lien

YACA Representative in Attendance: None

Public in Attendance: Danielle Miller (left at 7:25 p.m.), Scott Jax (left at 7:22 p.m.), and Craig Kepler (joined at 6:44 p.m., left at 7:17 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Haller called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. APPROVALS (10 minutes)

a. 12/19/2022 Agenda

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

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

b. 11/19/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the November Board meeting. Minor edits were recommended by Ms. Moeller (in advance), Mr. Evans and Mr. Robinson.

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

c. Policy 414- Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

d. Policy 505- Student Dress and Appearance

The MOTION by Mr. Robinson to approve Policies 414 and 505 as amended was seconded and passed.

e. Leave of Absence

Dr. Lien presented a student leave of absence for five months.

The MOTION by Mr. Robinson to approve the leave of absence was seconded and passed.

III. ACADEMIC UPDATE (33 minutes)

Ms. Miller presented on the education achievement gaps at Yinghua Academy. Minnesota has some of the largest achievement gaps in the nation measured by race and socioeconomic status. She presented information from both the MCA Math and Reading tests and NWEA tests. The presentation included scores and percent proficiency by race for grades 3 to 8. There were similar gaps from both data sets. While Yinghua Academy is better than the state averages, there are still achievement gaps at the school. Ms. Miller closed by providing information on what steps Yinghua is taking to close the achievement gap.

IV. YBC BOARD (33 minutes)

Mr. Kepler, a lawyer with Best and Flanagan LLP, has helped Yinghua Academy since the school started. He provided background information on how the Yinghua Building Corporation (YBC) was initially setup and why changes to the bylaws are now required. YBC was originally setup before statutory provisions were passed at the state level.

Mr. Kepler went on to explain that YBC needs to be setup as a 'supporting organization' per IRS regulation. The mission of a supporting organization must be in support of the controlling organization. While there can not be Board member overlap between the two Boards, the Yinghua Academy School Board can appoint directors to the supporting organization. The IRS regulations require YBC to adopt new bylaws.

Mr. Kepler went on to provide some additional meeting procedural information for supporting organization. The building corporation only needs to meet once per year to approve the annual audit. In addition, they do not need to comply with Minnesota open meeting laws.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (4 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 42% complete for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The current student enrollment is 830 students. Expenditures are at 38%

and revenues are at 40% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$291,771 across all funds.

There was no Finance Committee meeting held in December. Dr. Lien and Nate Winter from CLA will be working on a revised budget with 5 less students currently enrolled than planned for in the approved budget.

VI. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (6 minutes)

Mr. Ella explained that the changes to the policies up for their first reading were based on recommended changes from the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA). The following policies were presented with minor changes.

- a. Policy 410 – Family and Medical Leave
- b. Policy 415 – Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults
- c. Policy 534 – Unpaid Meal Charges
- d. Policy 616 – School District System Accountability

Mr. Ella went on to explain that the Conflict of Interest policy is still under review.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN (1 minute)

Dr. Haller gave a brief update from Ms. Moeller on the Strategic Plan. Last week the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (Dr Lien, Ms. Cheng, Ms. Zeglin, and Ms. Moeller) met to review the initial materials received from the two consulting firms the committee is considering. Ms. Moeller is scheduling meetings in January with both consulting firms.

VIII. BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS (3 minutes)

Mr. Evans presented the Board members interested in the officer positions for calendar 2023. The board members are Dr. Haller for Chair, Mr. Robinson for Treasurer and Mr. Bode for Secretary.

The MOTION by Mr. Evans to approve Dr. Haller as Chair, Mr. Robinson as Treasurer, and Mr. Bode as Secretary was seconded and passed.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (16 minutes)

Dr. Lien highlighted a few items in her most recent Executive Director's Report. The current enrollment is 830 students. The school is actively recruiting for kindergartens and first graders. Last week was the last day of the teacher interns from Taiwan. Dr. Lien is actively planning to host interns again next year. There was first term celebrations

including speech competition, Accelerated Reader (AR) and iChinese reader awards. The IT department won an award for the Partnership of the Year from the MN Tech for Success. The retreat for 7th and 8th graders was held this month. An alumni event is being planned for December 30th. There are currently 80 students registered for Taiwan trip in June, split equally between current students and past graduates.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT (0 minutes)

None

XI. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Mr. Robinson to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 01/30/2023