

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2023, 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: None

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA Co-Chair in Attendance: Gloria Low

Public in Attendance: Carrie from Friends of Education

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Haller called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

II. APPROVALS (6 minutes)

a. 04/17/2023 Agenda

Dr. Haller presented the agenda. There was a request for additional updates on the Strategic Planning and Fundraising strategy.

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

b. 03/20/2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the March Board meeting. Ms. Schneider recommended minor edits to the minutes.

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

c. Tax Form 990, year ending June 2022

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.

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (4 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 75% complete for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The current student enrollment is 830 students. Expenditures are at 71% and revenues are at 75% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$451,425 across all funds.

Mr. Robinson went on to discuss the status of Fund 04. This fund includes the study abroad trip, which currently has a positive balance, but will net out close to zero after expenses are paid. He also mentioned that Yinghua Care will be reimbursed for Music Conservatory and Athletics programs. Finally, the 2023-2024 budget will be presented at the May Board meeting.

IV. STRATEGIC PLANNING (6 minutes)

Ms. Moeller mentioned the upcoming Strategic Planning Kick-Off this upcoming Saturday. She encouraged Board Members to read the material and do the pre-work ahead of time.

V. FUNDRAISING STRATEGY (7 minutes)

Ms. Moeller gave an update on the fundraising initiative she is leading. She is recommending a new fundraising organization separate from Yinghua Academy and YACA. She mentioned that she has been reaching out to and learning from other school districts with fundraising organizations including St. Croix Prep and Mahtomedi.

VI. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (5 minutes)

Mr. Ella mentioned the 3 following policies are up for 2nd reading. He mentioned there was clarifying language added to the policy related to the Pledge of Allegiance based on the last Board meeting.

- Policy 531 Pledge of Allegiance
- Policy 501 School Weapons
- Policy 417 Chemical Use and Abuse

Mr. Ella went on to mention the upcoming school Board Election will kick off at the Annual Board meeting next Thursday. There are 3 candidates for 3 Board seats.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (33 minutes)

Dr. Lien highlighted a few items in her most recent Executive Director's Report. There are 831 students enrolled as of today. The attendance results for parent-teacher conferences are still being tabulated. She went on to recap the events at the First Conference of Chinese Immersion Research, Curriculum, Language and Evaluation (CIRCLE) held in Washington D.C.

Dr. Lien mentioned several events happening at school. These include formal class observations to give feedback to teachers and hosting "What's the Scoop" and "Around the Word" events. There will be summer extended learning during the weeks of June 19th and 26th, which around 10 students per grade (3rd grade and above) will be invited to attend. In addition, safety procedures are once again being reviewed based on current events. A staff intent-to-return document for the 23-24 academic year went out to all teachers and staff. At least 82% percent have committed to returning. There are currently 66 middle school students and 29 Yinghua graduates signed up for the Taiwan trip this June.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION (83 minutes)

Dr. Haller read the following text to close the meeting: "Minnesota Open meeting law allows a public body to enter a closed session for the purpose of discussing the disciplinary action for a person that is under their supervision. The conversation will be recorded but the notes of this closed session will not be published with the notes of the board meeting."

The MOTION by Mr. Ella to close the meeting for discussion of disciplinary actions for a person under their supervision was seconded and passed.

The MOTION by Mr. Lawton to open the meeting was seconded and passed.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (0 minutes)

None.

X. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Schneider to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 05/15/2023