

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 15, 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, and Amanda Schneider

Board Members Not in Attendance: Yinglu Zeglin

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA Co-Chair in Attendance: Anaya Mitra

Public in Attendance: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVALS (5 minutes)

a. 05/15/2023 Agenda

Dr. Haller presented the agenda.

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

b. 04/17/2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the April Board meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve the April meeting minutes was seconded and passed.

c. 2023 Annual Board Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the 2023 Annual Board meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Schneider to approve the 2023 Annual Board meeting minutes was seconded and passed.

d. STUDENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION

Dr. Lien presented a student leave of absence extension through the end of the academic year.

The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to approve the student leave of absence extension was seconded and passed.

III. STRATEGIC PLANNING (2 minutes)

Ms. Moeller mentioned the upcoming Strategic Planning Committee meeting this upcoming Saturday, May 20. The purpose of this meeting is to continue to develop Yinghua Academy's new strategic plan. At Open Houses at the school on Friday afternoon, June 2, and Saturday morning, June 3, teachers, staff, and parents will have an opportunity to review a first draft of the new strategic plan and offer their feedback. The goal is to finalize the plan over the summer and ask the Yinghua Academy Board to approve it at the August Board Meeting.

IV. YBC (YINGHUA BUILDING CORPORATION) BOARD CANDIDATE (3 minutes)

Dr. Haller gave an update on the Yinghua Building Corporation (YBC) Board and filling their Board seats. He recommends Gordon Hage to fill one of the Board seats. There was no formal vote from the Yinghua Academy Board as YBC needs first to update their bylaws.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (41 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 83% complete for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The current student enrollment is 830 students. Expenditures are at 79% and revenues are at 85% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$602,231 across all funds. This large net gain is largely attributed to the China trip where revenue has come in, but the expenses have not been paid yet.

Mr. Robinson went on to present the Budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The proposed budget will continue to be revised to meet a 25% fund balance. He also gave an update on the long-range budget. There were several questions on the expense categories including salary, repairs, and transportation.

The MOTION by Mr. Robinson to approve the Yinghua Academy Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget was seconded and passed. Mr. Owens abstained from the vote, and Ms. Schneider voted No.

VI. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR (2 minutes)

Dr. Haller gave an update from the Development Committee. Mr. Owens has been the Chair of the Development Committee, and his Board term ends in June. Ms. Moeller will be taking over the Chair position.

VII. FUNDRAISING UPDATE (9 minutes)

Ms. Moeller provided an update on broadening the school's fundraising efforts. She is requesting the Board approve the creation of a new 501(c)3 non-profit.

The MOTION by Mr. Bode to support the establishment of a new organization to broaden our fundraising efforts with a new fundraising organization 501(c)3 was seconded and passed.

VIII. GOVERNANCE UPDATE (6 minutes)

Mr. Ella shared the results of the School Board Election with two new members being elected (Colleen Ebinger and Barbara Knott) along with a current Board member (Andrew Lawson) being elected for a second term.

Mr. Ella introduced two policies for first reading with updates based on recommendations by the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA).

- Policy 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety
- Policy 418 Drug Free Workplace

Mr. Ella mentioned the 3 following policies are up for 3rd reading with no changes since the last Board meeting.

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

The MOTION by Mr. Ella to approve Policies 417, 501 and 531 was seconded and passed.

IX. STATE OF THE SCHOOL (14 minutes)

Dr. Haller presented information on the World's Best Workforce plan for Yinghua Academy. The plan is a requirement of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and has five main goals. As a K-8th grade school, Yinghua Academy tracks the school's performance relative to two goals: All third graders can read at grade level. and all racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed. He went on to explain how some of the economic metrics have changed now that students on Medicaid automatically qualify for the free and reduced lunch program.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (28 minutes)

Dr. Lien highlighted a few items in her most recent Executive Director's Report. There are currently 110 kindergartners confirmed for next school year. The current student enrollment is over 95%. There were 16 students who participated in the 2023 National Chinese Speech Contest. A Yinghua Academy team took first place in the Battle of the Books competition earning hosting privileges for next year.

She went on to mention events happening at the school including kindergarten roundup with 88 new students attending, Spring choir and orchestra concerts, fifth and sixth grade dance, and testing assessment taking place. Currently there are 6 teachers confirmed not coming back for the next year based on staff intent to return survey. She concluded by mentioning the Red Envelope raised almost \$52k.

XI. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (7 minutes)

Dr. Haller asked for feedback about the Board's current Committee structure. It was recommended that topic be tabled until new Board members start their term in July.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT (1 minute)

None.

XIII. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 06/20/2023