

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 20, 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), Colleen Ebinger, V John Ella, Barbara Knott (arrived at 6:09 p.m.), Andrew Lawton, Cindy Moeller, Amanda Schneider, Pamella Stommes, 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: Claire Little (left at 6:36 p.m.) and Sarah Totall (left at 6:22 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Haller called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. APPROVALS (5 minutes)

a. 11/20/2023 Agenda

Dr. Haller presented the draft agenda with removal of the family leave agenda item.

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

b. 10/16/2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Haller presented the minutes for the October Board meeting. A few minor edits were recommended by Ms. Stommes.

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

III. YINGHUA ATHLETIC PROGRAM (15 minutes)

Ms. Totall presented on Yinghua Academy's athletic program. She was asked to grow the program when she was hired by the school in 2014. She provided background on how the program has grown since that time. An initial change she implemented was to

pay the coaches. She went over the benefits of the school's athletics for the staff and for student athletes. There are both traveling and in-house sports. All sports are coed. There are waiting lists for the sports offered. There could be more sports offered if the school had more space. The athletic program financially supports itself.

IV. ANNUAL REPORT (14 minutes)

Ms. Little introduced the draft of the Yinghua Academy's Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report and the World's Best Workforce report. Dr. Lien complimented Ms. Little on all the work she had done for the report. She went on to mention that 8 out of the 11 contract goals were met this past fiscal year. The Annual Report will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education and Yinghua's authorizer, Friends of Education. Board members were asked to provide edits for the two reports to Ms. Little.

The MOTION by Ms. Schneider to approve both the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report and the World's Best Workforce report as amended while allowing for minor edits by Ms. Little was seconded and passed.

V. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (26 minutes)

Mr. Ella presented background on the difference between an active shooter drill versus a lockdown drill. The Minnesota Legislature passed a law in the last legislative session that you cannot have an active shooter drill without an announcement. Currently Yinghua does not do active shooter drills. Mr. Ella recommended that we update policy 806, Crisis Management Policy, to state that Yinghua Academy does not do active shooter drills.

The MOTION by Mr. Ella to add language to Policy 806, Crisis Management Policy, that the Yinghua Academy does not do Active Shooter drills was seconded and passed. Ms. Moeller and Ms. Zeglin voted No.

Policy 806 will be updated by the Governance Committee and be presented for the first reading at the December Board meeting. Mr. Ella commented that Policy 521, Student Disability Nondiscrimination, was on its second reading. Mr. Ella also touched on the topic of ongoing Board training.

VI. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATED (2 minutes)

Ms. Moeller gave update that the new foundation, Friends of Yinghua Academy (FOYA), was approved for non-profit status by the IRS. The primary purpose of FOYA is to seek financial support from people and organizations that are not currently connected with the Yinghua Academy community.

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (10 minutes)

Mr. Robinson summarized the current financials, which are 33% complete for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The final current student enrollment is 834 students. Expenditures are at 31% and revenues are at 32% of the revised annual budget. There is currently a total net gain of \$69,081 across all funds.

Mr. Robinson mentioned that the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit results will be presented at the next Board meeting. He went on to present a revised budget for the 2023-2024 school year that includes several changes including additional revenue from ADSIS Grants, an increase in salary expense and additional busing costs. There were questions on a few items including the amount of contribution from YACA. The Finance committee will get clarity on the open items and represent the revised budget at the December Board meeting.

VIII. OFFICER ELECTIONS (1 minutes)

Dr. Haller mentioned the upcoming Board Officer elections at the December board meeting for the calendar 2024 term. Ms. Moeller is running for Board Chair, Mr. Robinson for Treasurer, and Mr. Bode for Secretary.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (22 minutes)

Dr. Lien highlighted a few items in her most recent Executive Director's Report.

Student attendance is currently on track to meet the school's goal. There were statistics presented on the number of students needing help with Reading Interventions, Math Interventions, and Behavior/Organization Interventions for grades 2nd to 8th. The school received grant money to support this work

Two Yinghua students competed in the Chinese Bridge competition in Kunming, China.

The school hosted Grandparent's Day on October 23.

Dr. Lien went on to mention that there was online event to celebrate the signing of another sister school in Taiwan, Jiayi Shi Dongqu Xing'an Elementary School.

Dr. Lien continues to host Tea and Talk sessions with parents, most recently 1st and 2nd grades on November 14th and 5th and 6th grades on November 16th.

The school invited Dr. Tara Fortune, former Director of the University of Minnesota Immersion Research and Professional Development project, to conduct the inaugural event of Yinghua's Parent University, entitled "The Upside, Downside, & Inside Out of Immersion Education" on Thursday, October 26th.

Finally, the 5th and 6th grade retreat was held on November 17th.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT (0 minutes)

None

XI. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Dr. Haller concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Schneider to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Nathan Bode

Approved by vote of Board on: 12/11/2023