

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Yinghua Academy Media Center: 1616 Buchanan St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Board Members in Attendance: Cindy Moeller (Chair), Charles Robinson (Treasurer), Colleen Ebinger, Paul Haller, Barbara Knott, Andrew Lawton, Amanda Schneider, Yinglu Zeglin, and Pamella Stommes

Board Members Not in Attendance: Nathan Bode (Secretary)

Executive Director Not in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA Co-Chair in Attendance: Gloria Low and Anita Mitra

Public in Attendance: Anna Lindquist, Michelle Vuong, Kate Herman, Paul Landahl, Ying Zhang and Beth Topoluk (Friends of Education)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Moeller called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. APPROVALS (7 minutes)

a. 05/20/2024 Agenda

Ms. Moeller presented the draft agenda.

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

b. 04/15/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Moeller presented the minutes for the April Board meeting. A few edits were requested by Board members.

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

c. 04/25/2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Ms. Moeller presented the minutes for the annual meeting.

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

III. NEW 5-YEAR CONTRACT BETWEEN YINGHUA ACADEMY AND FRIENDS OF EDUCATION (52 minutes)

Ms. Topoluk presented the Charter School Contract and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 124E.

Ms. Topoluk stated that “the primary purpose of charter schools is to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement.”

Ms. Topoluk presented Contract Renewal, on page 21, that “The School acknowledges that improving all pupil learning and all student achievement is the most important factor Friends will consider in determining Contract renewal....”

Ms. Topoluk spoke on the significance of the factors when a contract is renewed and evaluated such as meeting the requirements of EL support on page 94 of the contract, low-income requirements on page 96 of the contract, and the contract goal on page 109. The other factors such as the followings:

- Exhibit F on page 49 – primary evaluation tool.
 - Comparative Proficiency – District. (Sub Goal 1.2)
 - National standard (vs. Minneapolis) and other school districts
- Exhibit K on page 58
 - The first of two words of each contract is “I assure...” where assurance was needed for the school to continue.
 - Under category V: Review of the school contract
 - Without a charter contract, Ms. Topoluk emphasized that there would not be a school, which was the same as without meeting the minimum fund balance, a charter school would not continue receiving a school contract
- Exhibit G needed to reflect on what the school was actually doing.
 - Board members pointed out the statement in the contract that “when capacity is exceeded, then the school is not obligated to admit more siblings,” which was yet to be discussed and determined by the Board on how to implement this in the future.

Board members signed the 5-year new contract.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (5minutes)

Mr. Robinson updated the board of the current fund balance and the CD's status in which one of the CDs will be up for renewal in July and will then be reflected under local & others.

V. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (3 minutes)

Ms. Stommes mentioned that the committee discussed new fundraising strategies to implement in the new school year such as using clearer language to help the community understand the purpose of each fundraising event.

VI. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (16 minutes)

Dr. Haller mentioned that there were 130 votes. The analysis was that there were approximately 100 people out of 800 students who voted, which was about 10% of the community. The discussion focused on how to get more people to vote in the future.

Dr. Haller and the governance committee recommended resolving the tie-vote by allowing both candidates to join the board in the new term, given that the board had the capacity to allow more members.

The MOTION by Mr. Lawton to accept the recommendation was second and passed.

VII. Dr. Haller provided brief updates on the following polices that are up for either their first or second reading.

Polices on their 3rd reading:

- Policy 102 – Equal Employment Opportunity
- Policy 205 – Open Meetings and Closed Meetings

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the above policies was seconded and passed.

Polices on their 2nd reading:

- Policy 410 – Family and Medical Leave
- Policy 413 – Harassment and Violence

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger amended the order of the public comment and the ED performance feedback was seconded and passed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)

Ms. Young presented the Letter of Support to the board. A few comments were made by the public.

Public comments related to the school space were heard and will be discussed further.

IX. ED PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK (76 minutes)

Executive Director Performance Feedback

Ms. Moeller read the following text to close the meeting: “The next item on the agenda is a closed session to conduct the performance evaluation of Dr. Lien. Minnesota Statutes Section 124E, subdivision 3(a), allows a school board to close a meeting to conduct the performance evaluation of an employee. During the closed meeting, the Board will evaluate the performance of the Executive Director. Accordingly, pursuant to the law I have cited, I will hereby entertain a motion that this meeting be closed for the purpose of evaluating the performance of the Executive Director.”

The MOTION by Mr. Robinson to close the meeting for the CEO/ED Performance Evaluation was seconded and passed.

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

X. APPRECIATION OF BOARD MEMBER (1 minutes)

Ms. Moeller led the board and took the opportunity to share the board’s appreciation for Ms. Schneider’s 9-year service on the board.

XI. ADJOURN (1 minute)

Ms. Moeller concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Mr. Robinson to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Pamella Stommes

Approved by vote of Board on: 06/11/2024