

2025 Yinghua Academy School Board Candidate Form - Narrative

My name is Bradly Byykkonen, and I am currently a middle school English teacher at Yinghua Academy. This is my thirteenth year teaching at YA, my twenty-third year as a full-time teacher (third school).

I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and attended Northern Michigan University. My career in education began as a teacher's aide for at-risk youth at Keweenaw Academy. After doing that for three years, I began teaching full-time as an English teacher, first in Florida then here in Minnesota, and I have been doing that until the present (with one year off for coursework between my last employment and working at YA).

Over the years in education, I have learned the importance of trying to steer students in a direction in which they began to train themselves in good habits that will help them in the future, whatever their endeavors, and to equip them with the knowledge and skills they will need for high school and beyond. This is something I plan to continue doing here at Yinghua Academy, for I have been impressed with Yinghua Academy's success at giving students a quality education while teaching them to be fluent in Mandarin Chinese and preparing them to be global citizens.

As a board member, I would like to assist in ensuring that Yinghua Academy stays focused on its mission and that resources are accolated in such a way as to maximize success. Because of my many years of experience as an educator—twelve here at Yinghua Academy—I believe I have a good understanding of the school, its culture, and its mission, and so I am well-equipped to see to it that the school continues on a path of success in education.

Thank you