

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 21st, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

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

Board Members in Attendance: Colleen Ebinger (Chair), Yinglu Zeglin (Secretary), Chris Klisch (Treasurer), Charles Robinson, Barbara Knott, Paul Haller, Nathan Bode, Paul Landahl, Bryan Huang, Pamella Stommes, Ying Zhang

Board Members Not in Attendance: Cindy Moeller

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA in Attendance: Mike Wilson (left at 7:57 PM)

Public in Attendance: Trupti Storlie (left at 7:57 PM), Jessica Griffin (left at 7:57 PM)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ebinger called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

II. APPROVALS (6:03-6:08)

a. 4/21/2025 Agenda

Ms. Ebinger presented the draft agenda for the April board meeting.

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

b. 3/24/2025 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Ebinger presented the minutes of the March Board meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the March meeting minutes was seconded and passed.

c. 2025-2026 Board & Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Ebinger presented the updated 2025-2026 board and committee meeting dates.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve 2025-2026 board and committee meeting dates was seconded and passed.

d. Student Leave of Absence Request

Dr. Lien discussed two students' leave of absence requests: one 8th grader for emergency leave of absence; one 2nd grader for a family trip.

The MOTION by Mr. Landahl to approve the leave of absence requests was seconded and passed.

III. Occupational Therapy Vendor Contract (6:08-6:16)

Dr. Lien presented two options for next year's Occupational Therapy vendor contract. The board discussed the options and approved Option 2, which offers more comprehensive support.

The MOTION by Ms. Zeglin to approve the Occupational Therapy Vendor Contract was seconded and passed.

IV. Update to Yinghua Academy's Bylaws (6:16-6:44)

Dr. Lien presented that the Charter School Contract with Friends of Education is up for renewal. Two specific bylaws need to be updated to comply with new Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) regulations. Dr. Lien requested the board's approval of the updates to Yinghua Academy's bylaws so she can submit the revised contract to Friends of Education and the MDE.

The MOTION by Mr. Landahl to approve the update to Yinghua Academy's Bylaws was seconded and passed.

V. Update on Strategic Plan & Board Discussion (6:44-7:14)

Dr. Lien presented an update on the Strategic Plan. From September to April, she reported a total of 126 items aligned with our Strategic Plan. Specifically, these included 36 items related to Goal 1, 36 items related to Goal 2, and 54 items related to Goal 3. She highlighted key actions related to each goal for the board.

VI. Fundraising Committee Update (7:14-7:20)

Mr. Huang reported that the Fundraising Committee met our fundraising goal this year and suggested that we could strategically set a higher goal by pursuing corporate sponsorships for a GeoDome. He also introduced fundraising ideas and projects for next year's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

VII. Finance Committee Update (7:20-7:27)

Mr. Klisch shared an overview of the March financials. There were no changes in enrollment. We are on budget and on track with revenue.

VIII. Governance Committee Update (7:27-7:36)

- a. Mr. Haller provided an update on the Board Election. We have a healthy pool of candidates for the board election.
- b. Mr. Haller brought Policy 524 (Internet, Technology & Cell Phone) up for the second reading.

The MOTION BY Mr. Haller to approve Policy 524 (Internet, Technology & Cell Phone) was seconded and approved.

- c. Mr. Haller brought Policy 504 (Dress Code) up for the first reading.
- d. The board discussed virtual meeting options and the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. We will consult our attorney to confirm the requirements and revisit the discussion at a later time.

IX. Executive Director's Report (7:36-7:56)

Dr. Lien presented:

- The enrollment stays the same in March.
- Term III Formal Observation and Performance Review started and will be completed by the end of May.
- Paylocity was launched for staff payroll and HR management.
- SpEd Evaluation Trainings are completed.
- Special Education Advisory Council Meetings have been successful this year.
- 3/31 Community Building Event was successful.

X. Public Comment

None

XI. Adjourn (7:56-7:57)

Ms.Ebinger concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Mr. Haller to adjourn at 7:57 pm was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Yinglu Zeglin

Approved by vote of the Board on May 19th, 2025.