

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 19th, 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), Cindy Moeller, Barbara Knott, Paul Haller (left at 9:00 pm), Nathan Bode (left at 7:01 pm), Paul Landahl, Pamella Stommes, Ying Zhang

Board Members Not in Attendance: Bryan Huang, Charles Robinson

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien (left at 7:52 pm)

YACA in Attendance: Mike Wilson (left at 7:52 pm)

Public in Attendance:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ebinger called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

II. APPROVALS (6:01-6:23)

a. 5/19/2025 Agenda

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

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

b. 4/21/2025 Meeting Minutes

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

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

c. 5/15/2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes was seconded and passed.

d. Contract update with Friends of Education

Ms. Ebinger shared a brief contract update and noted that she would return to this topic later in the meeting.

d. Student Leave of Absence Request

Dr. Lien discussed a leave of absence request for one kindergarten student due to a family emergency situation. The board approved a four-month leave for the family and will receive an update regarding the student's return on August 18, 2025.

The MOTION by Ms. Zhang to approve the leave of absence requests was seconded and passed.

III. UPDATE ON LEGAL QUESTIONS (6:23-6:38)

a. Virtual committee meetings

- i. Ms. Ebinger checked in with our YA lawyer, Amy Mace, regarding the virtual committee meeting requirements. It is acceptable to hold committee meetings in a virtual format since no board decisions are made during these meetings.

b. Anti-nepotism

- i. Ms. Ebinger reemphasized that Yinghua Board will ensure Yinghua Academy will abide by the Charter School 's anti-nepotism policy.

c. Board approval of hiring and termination

- i. Ms. Ebinger shared that all other FOE (Friends of Education) charter schools include hiring and termination approvals in the consent agenda. This practice helps the board better understand contracts and prevents potential discrimination against any staff members.

d. The board must establish qualifications for certain positions

- i. Ms. Ebinger stated that the board, in collaboration with Dr. Lien, needs to establish the qualifications for all administrative leadership staff members.

IV. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (6:38-7:21)

a. Mr. Haller brought Policy 504 (Dress Code) up for the second reading.

The board discussed the dress code, taking into account equity, purchasing convenience, and student input. Further discussion regarding the details will be held, and all decisions will align with the policy.

The MOTION BY Ms.Knott to approve Policy 504 (Dress Code) was seconded and approved.

- b. Mr. Haller brought Policy 506 (Student Discipline) and Policy 426 (Anti-Nepotism) up for the first reading.

- c. Update to the bylaws

Ms. Ebinger checked in with our YA lawyer, Amy Mace, and presented the bylaw updates to her. Everything appears accurate and is ready for board approval.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the Update to Yinghua Academy's Bylaws was seconded and passed.

- d. Update to the contract (7:21- 7:26)

Dr. Lien shared that during MDE's review of the YA contract with FOE, they requested that we mirror the language from the MDE bylaws. Now that the Board has approved the updated bylaws, the revised contract is ready for board approval.

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

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:26 -7:29)

Mr. Klisch shared an overview of the April financials. We are on budget and on track with revenue. As of the end of April, 83% of the fiscal year was complete. Revenues for the month were at 85% of the budget, and expenditures were at 82% of the budget.

VI. UPDATE ON YBC (7:29 -7:31)

Ms. Moeller shared that they had a successful YBC meeting. They are currently working on the bylaws and policies. At the next meeting, they clarify everyone's responsibilities.

VII. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS (7:31-7:36)

Ms. Ebinger collected topic ideas from the board members and welcomed more topics in the future.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (7:36-7:51)

Dr. Lien presented:

- The enrollment in April
- Academics and Assessment
- Facilities and Operations
- Professional Development and Staffing
- School Community and Student Life
- Grants and Fundraising
- Supplemental Report: Social Media Metrics

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike asked questions about the intent of the Dress Code policy's intention and shared his input.

X. ED PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK (7:51 - 9:03)

Ms. Ebinger 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 Ms. Moeller to close the meeting for the CEO/ED Performance Evaluation was seconded and passed.

The MOTION by Ms. Moeller to open the meeting was seconded and passed.

XI. ADJOURN (9:03-9:03)

Ms. Ebinger concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Zeglin to close the meeting was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Yinglu Zeglin

Approved by vote of the Board on June 9th, 2025.