

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 15th, 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), Paul Landahl, Ying Zhang, Bryan Huang, Bradly Bykkonen, Jessica Griffin, Brian Strahan, Trupti Storlie

Board Members Not in Attendance: Pamella Stommes, Cindy Moeller, Catherine Wang Yang

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA in Attendance: Mike Wilson

Public in Attendance: Amy Erickson (Friends of Education)

I. Call to order (6:00 pm)

Ms. Ebinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

II. Approvals (6:01- 6:48 pm)

a. 9/15/2025 Agenda

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

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

b. 8/18/2025 Meeting Minutes

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

The MOTION by Mr. Strahan to approve the August meeting minutes was seconded and passed.

C. E-Learning Plan

Dr. Lien shared the 25-26 E-Learning Plan, which will be implemented after two inclement weather days this school year.

The MOTION by Mr. Huang to approve the 25-26 E-Learning Plan was seconded and passed.

D. Open Enrollment Period

Dr. Lien shared that open enrollment dates must be posted on the website by October 1 each year. She proposed setting the 2026 open enrollment period from January 6 to February 26, with the lottery to be held on February 27, 2026.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the Open Enrollment Period for 2026 was seconded and passed.

E. Approval to waive nepotism policy for specific hires related to current employees or board members for a new hire

Ms. Ebinger reviewed the previously adopted nepotism policy and past Yinghua board decisions. Dr. Lien presented all current nepotism hires to the board. The board then discussed the candidates' qualifications and the evaluation process.

The MOTION by Mr. Huang to waive nepotism policy for three candidates was seconded and passed.

The MOTION by Mr. Huang to waive nepotism policy for one candidate with the 90-day review conducted by the HR committee was seconded and passed.

E. New Hires & Separations

Dr. Lien presented the list of new hires, separations, and returning employees.

The MOTION by Mr. Landahl to approve the list of this year's staffing and salary was seconded and passed.

III. School Safety and Security Overview (6:48- 7:17 pm)

Ms. Ebinger presented a professional development opportunity for board members focused on responding to school shooting threats.

Dr. Lien shared the safety measures currently in place at Yinghua. She noted that the school regularly conducts emergency drills and has clear evacuation procedures. In addition to physical safety, student wellness and mental health support are prioritized, with daily morning and afternoon check-ins designed to help students build connections and foster a sense of belonging. Families and staff are also supported with access to various resources. Dr. Lien emphasized the importance of prevention and early intervention when addressing concerning behaviors.

The board engaged in a discussion about the school's physical environment, recess, and after-school programs, highlighting the importance of cultivating a strong, positive school culture for all students.

IV. Balancing School Budget and Fees (7:17-7: 38 pm)

Ms. Ebinger brought the after-school program budget for discussion. The board discussed the possible proposals to support the programs.

V. Governance Committee (7:38-7:45 pm)

Ms. Landahl shared information about the technology fee for families and the related policy. The board discussed the optional fee outlined in the policy and its implications for families.

VI. Finance Committee Update (7:45-7:47 pm)

Mr. Klisch shared an overview of the May financials. We are on budget and on track with revenue. As of now, 17% of the school year was complete. We are at 26% of the fund balance.

VII. Fundraising Committee Update (7:47 - 7:49 pm)

Mr. Huang shared the success of the Family Picnic. We have three more school events coming up.

VIII. Highlights of Executive Director's Report (7:49 -7:58 pm)

Dr. Lien presented some highlights:

- School Rankings Highlight Academic Excellence
- 2025 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) Data
- Yinghua Students and Alumni Participated Summer Camp in China

IX. Public Comment

No comment.

X. ADJOURN (7:58-7: 58pm)

Ms.Ebinger concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Mr. Ebinger to close the meeting was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Yinglu Zeglin
Approved by vote of the Board on October 20th, 2025 .