

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23rd, 2026, 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, Bradly Byykkonen, Jessica Griffin, Catherine Wang Yang, Trupti Storlie, Ying Zhang, Bryan Huang, Pamela Stommes, Brian Strahan

Board Members Not in Attendance: Cindy Moeller

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA in Attendance: Mike Wilson

Public in Attendance: April Chu, Elisabeth Cleveland

I. Call to order (6:02 pm)

Ms. Ebinger called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Approvals (6:02 - 6:08 pm)

A. 3/23/26 Agenda

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

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

B. 2/9/2026 Meeting Minutes

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

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

C. New Hires & Separations

Dr. Lien reported that there were two new hires and no separations this month.

The MOTION by Ms. Zeglin to approve the new hires was seconded and passed.

D. Leave of absence

Dr. Lien reported that a family had to leave on March 2nd and plans to come back on April 28th for an international family visit. They made an academic plan with the academic directors.

The MOTION by Mr. Landahl to approve the Leave of Absence was seconded and passed.

III. Governance Committee (6:08 - 6:13 pm)

Mr. Landahl brought Policy 514 – Bullying Policy forward for its First reading.

Mr. Landahl presented the recommended 2026 Board Election timeline. The application deadline is 6:00 pm on April 20. Candidate speeches will be held on May 18 at 6:00 pm. The voting period will remain open for one week, ending on May 26. The board supports this proposal.

IV. Fundraising Committee (6:13 - 6:19 pm)

Mr. Huang provided updates on the 20th Anniversary Celebration plans. To date, we have raised \$83,000, with additional funds still expected. We are currently securing donor sponsorships and are seeking ambassadors and volunteers to support the event. Invitations and additional information will be sent out soon.

V. Finance & Facilities Committee (6:19 - 6:51 pm)

Mr. Klisch shared an overview of the February financials. We are on budget and on track with revenue, currently at 66% of the annual budget. Legal fees are higher, as expected. Our fund balance is at the required 25%.

Dr. Lien reviewed the process and costs associated with renewing staff members' H-1B visas. Currently, approximately 30 staff members hold H-1B visas, with 9 up for renewal this year. These legal expenses were accounted for during the budget planning phase. We are also implementing contingency plans to ensure adequate teacher staffing for the school next year.

Mr. Klisch presented and explained the revised budget proposal to the board for discussion.

The MOTION BY Mr. Klisch to approve revised budget proposal was seconded and approved.

VI. Yinghua Building Corporation (6:52 - 6:55 pm)

Ms. Ebinger provided background information on Yinghua's building ownership with Yinghua Building Corporation (YBC). She also presented the reappointment of board

members for renewed 1-year terms, including Hursha Patel, Nathan Lockwood, and Justin Riddle.

The MOTION BY Ms. Ebinger to approve the renewal of the Yinghua Building Corporation (YBC) board members was seconded and approved.

VII. Highlights of Executive Director's Report (6:55 - 7:02 pm)

Dr. Lien emphasized some highlights:

- In term 3, we resumed our small group learning and MCA practice.
- Initial piloting of Yinghua as an HSK test site took place on March 21.
- Paylocity is in use and the change has been good to see an increase in applications
- Staff evaluation for this year and hires for the next year are underway.
- Dr. Lien's personal professional development was worthwhile and inspiring.

VIII. Public Comment (7:02 - 8:00 pm)

April Chu and Elisabeth Cleveland shared concerns about technology use. They made several requests:

- Establish clear expectations and limits for screen time at school, along with clear communication about at-home screen time for homework.
- Address the use of smartphones and social media on the bus and at school.
- Review the resources and research they shared regarding the impact of technology and social media on children.

The board and school will explore offering Parent University sessions to help promote a healthier technology environment for families.

XI. ADJOURN (8:00- 8:00 pm)

Ms. Ebinger concluded the meeting.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to adjourn the meeting was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Yinglu Zeglin

Approved by vote of the Board on April 20th, 2026.