

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20th, 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, Ying Zhang, Bryan Huang, Pamella Stommes, Brian Strahan, Cindy Moeller

Board Members Not in Attendance: Trupti Storlie

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA in Attendance: Mike Wilson

Public in Attendance:

I. Call to order (6:01 pm)

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

II. Approvals (6:01 - 6:05 pm)

A. 4/20/26 Agenda

Ms. Ebinger presented the draft agenda for the April board meeting. Mr. Huang added a topic on school lunch for board discussion.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the agenda, with the addition of the school lunch topic, was seconded and passed.

B. 3/23/2026 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.

III. Governance Committee (6:05 - 6:09 pm, 6:34 - 6:55 pm)

Mr. Landahl brought the following two policies for first reading:

- Policy 516 - Student Medication
- Policy 006 - Social Media Content Moderation & Response Guidelines

Mr. Landahl shared that one school board candidate statement had been submitted for the three open board seats. The committee proposed extending the deadline for candidate statement submissions.

After discussion, the board approved an extension of the application deadline to April 26 at 6:00 pm. Voting for board members will begin on May 26, and the voting period will end on June 4 at 6:00 pm.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the adjustment of the application deadline and voting period was seconded and passed.

IV. Fundraising Committee (6:09 - 6:15pm)

Mr. Huang provided updates on the 20th Anniversary Celebration plans. We have sold 30 of the 40 planned tables. Additional information about volunteer opportunities for the event will be shared soon.

V. Finance & Facilities Committee (6:15 - 6:34 pm)

Mr. Klisch shared an overview of the March financials. We are on budget and on track with revenue, currently at 72% of the annual budget. Our fund balance remains at 25%.

Mr. Klisch also presented the fiscal year 2027 budget options for board discussion. The board reviewed key variables, including state funding, donations from the 20th Anniversary event, and the prospect of FOYA contributions. The board also discussed the importance of recognizing staff during the 20th anniversary by providing salary increases in the next academic year. Board members felt confident that this year's increased fundraising will be sufficient to provide this salary increase while maintaining the 25% required fund balance.

The MOTION BY Ms. Griffin to approve FY2027 Budget that includes 4% increase to total salary expenses and a 1% bonus pool was seconded and approved.

VI. Highlights of Executive Director's Report (6:55 - 7:17pm)

Dr. Lien highlighted the following:

- The different visa types held by Yinghua and their associated costs
- Academic performance updates
- MCA testing is underway and progressing well
- Parent-teacher conference participation is at 99%
- Staff evaluations are progressing well
- Nineteen teachers will attend Culturally Responsive Teaching training in June

- The DLO student organization has been actively organizing activities

VII. School Lunch (7:17 - 7:31 pm)

Brian Huang shared with the board concerns about the school lunch program, noting complaints from parents that portions are small, the food is often cold, and sometimes reported by students to be undercooked. Dr. Lien explained how and when the food is delivered and prepared. Other board members shared similar concerns and additional input regarding school lunch.

After considering the timing of food delivery by the contractor and the lunch schedule, particularly the last grade level's lunch period, the board agreed that this concern deserves the school's attention. Dr. Lien will look into the issue and follow up with the board at the next board meeting.

VIII. Public Comment (7:31 - 7:31 pm)

Mr. Wilson shared that he heard similar complaints about lunch as well.

XI. Closed Meeting (7:38 - 8:39 pm)

XII. ADJOURN (8:39 - 8:39 pm)

Ms. Ebinger concluded the meeting.

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

Minutes drafted by Yinglu Zeglin

Approved by vote of the Board on May 18th, 2026.