

Colleen Ebinger
Candidate Statement: Yinghua Academy Board of Directors
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Time flies! This is my 12th year as a Yinghua parent and I have four more to go. My current students are in 4th, 6th, and 8th grades and I also have a Yinghua alum who is a junior in high school. I've served in many volunteer capacities at Yinghua over the years, including as classroom coordinator, Chinese New Year volunteer, and member of two strategic planning committees. Next fall, I'll begin my sixth season coaching the school's cross country team. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of the many facets of the school and inspired me to dedicate my time and resources to continuing to make it the best school possible.

I joined the board three years ago in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. Many of our students had lost out on normal opportunities for social interactions and learning. I was largely motivated by the need I saw—as both a parent and a coach—for more social emotional skill-building. I wanted to ensure our kids gained the skills they need to thrive in the world. I focused many of my efforts on supporting a school culture that is both rigorous and nurturing for students and staff.

In my professional life, I run two companies. The first is a strategic consulting service that develops the strategy and execution plans for large-scale partnerships and coalitions in the social sector. The second is a multifamily real estate business that I co-own with my husband. My strengths are in strategy development, finance, public policy and coalition building.

Just over a year ago, I had the honor of becoming the chair of the school board. I am eyes wide open about the challenges that confront our school: tight physical quarters, decreasing public dollars, and challenging geopolitics that impact visa processing and international travel that are unique needs for an immersion school. The trade-offs are difficult and endless. Yet I have also never been more optimistic about our future. Yinghua teachers and staff are second to none. Our families have shown how deeply dedicated and supportive they are. Our board of directors is highly engaged, understands the school's needs, and is working hard to set us up for success. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary this year, I am proud and honored to serve on the Yinghua Academy Board of Directors. I humbly ask for your vote for a second term.