

YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 17th, 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), Bradly Byykkonen, Catherine Wang Yang, Cindy Moeller, Brian Strahan, Gretchen Nguyen

Board Members Not in Attendance: Paul Landahl, Jessica Griffin, Bryan Huang, Ying Zhang

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA in Attendance: Mike Wilson

Public in Attendance: None

I. Call to order (6:06 pm)

Ms. Ebinger called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

II. Approvals (6:06 - 6:20 pm)

A. 8/17/26 Agenda

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

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

B. 6/8/2026 Meeting Minutes

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

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

C. E-Learning Plan

Dr. Lien presented the purpose of the school's e-learning plan and the rationale behind the decision-making process.

The MOTION by Ms. Nguyen to approve the E-learning plan was seconded and passed.

D. Board of Directors Oath of Office

The board members present took the oath together and signed the oath documents.

III. Governance Committee (6:20- 7:00 pm)

- Discussion of Policies 515 (Privacy), 616 (Accountability), 721 (Uniform), 419 (Tobacco)

The MOTION by Mr. Strahan to approve Policies 515, 616, 721, and 419 was seconded and passed.

- Discussion of the Repeal of Policy 702 (Procurement)

The MOTION by Mr. Klisch to repeal Policy 702 (Procurement) was seconded and passed.

- Expedited Approval – Cardiac Emergency Response Plan/ AED Policy

Dr. Lien worked with the health team, MDE, and a professional nurse to develop a thorough plan. Project ADAM will come to Yinghua to provide CPR/AED training for our staff. The school will have AED devices in place before the start of school, pending board approval of the plan. This is a new statutory requirement, necessitating an expedited approval.

The MOTION by Ms. Ebinger to approve the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan and AED Policy was seconded and passed.

- Motion to Reauthorize Delegated Purchasing and Contracting Authority

The board discussed the maximum payment amounts that the business manager and executive director are authorized to approve.

The MOTION by Mr. Strahan to approve the Motion to Reauthorize Delegated Purchasing and Contracting Authority was seconded and passed.

- Summary of Board Training Memo

Ms. Ebinger introduced the different types of training available to school board members.

IV. Finance Committee (7:00- 7:09 pm)

Mr. Klisch reported on the initial plan for the entire year and stated that the school is maintaining a 25% fund balance. Ms. Ebinger shared information about the proposed constitutional amendment that will appear on November ballots to increase distributions from the state's Permanent School Fund. Current distributions are

approximately \$68 per public school pupil. If passed, the new rate would increase payouts to approximately \$101 per public school pupil. She noted that it would be responsible and beneficial to educate our community about this proposal.

V. Fundraising Committee (7:09- 7:10 pm)

Ms. Yang provided an update on the 20th Anniversary Celebration. The gala raised approximately \$225,000 for Yinghua Academy. The committee is planning next year's fundraising events.

VI. Friends Of Yinghua Academy Update (7:10- 7:40 pm)

Ms. Moeller provided an update on Friends of Yinghua Academy (FOYA), including an update on the discussion regarding the MOU between Yinghua Academy and FOYA. She explained that FOYA has two bank accounts: the FOYA Longevity Fund and an operating account for receiving donations and paying certain fees on behalf of Yinghua Academy as needed.

The organization plans to develop additional promotional materials, including a website, to encourage donations and promote the long-term sustainability of the FOYA Longevity Fund.

VII. Establish working groups (7:40- 8:04 pm)

- **Strategic Planning**

Ms. Ebinger presented a brief overview of the current strategic plan. The school is due to develop a new strategic plan this year. The board discussed whether to develop a new strategic plan or update the existing plan with revised goals. Dr. Lien shared her perspectives on the school's future vision. Ms. Moeller will explore external consulting services for the board to consider potential next steps.

- **Organizational Structure & Culture**

The school is analyzing the school culture data. A subcommittee will be formed to further address this area during the next school year.

VIII. Highlights of Executive Director's Report (8:04- 8:13 pm)

Dr. Lien highlighted the following updates:

- Yinghua's summer camp just ended successfully.
- Dr. Lien and Lai Zhuren visited one of the Taiwan sister schools and exchanged the gifts.

- In preparation for the new school year, the leadership team held a full-day retreat to explore the team's leadership style and identify priorities for the coming year. Dr. Lien also shared her vision for a culture of humanity.

IX. Public Comment
NA

X. ADJOURN (8:13 - 8:19 pm)

Ms. Ebinger concluded the meeting.

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

Minutes drafted by Yinglu Zeglin

Approved by vote of the Board on September 21st, 2026.