YINGHUA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 19th, 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), Bradly Byykkonen, Brian Strahan, Gretchen Nguyen, Paul Landahl, Jessica Griffin, Ying Zhang, Bryan Huang, Catherine Wang Yang

Board Members Not in Attendance: Cindy Moeller

Executive Director in Attendance: Dr. Luyi Lien

YACA in Attendance: NA

Public in Attendance: Elijah Schwartz, Xiaoyan Sun

I. Call to order (6:10 pm)

Ms. Ebinger called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Approvals (6:10 - 6:18 pm)

A. 10/19/26 Agenda

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

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

B. 9/21/26 Meeting Minutes

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

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

C. Consent Agenda

Dr. Lien presented the list of new hires and provided additional context regarding the J-1 intern staff members.

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

D. Leave of Absence Request

Dr. Lien reported that a fourth-grade student and a second-grade student will be absent for 25 days. During their absence, they will attend a local Chinese school to continue their studies.

The MOTION by Mr. Landahl to approve the leave of absence was seconded and passed.

III. Finance Committee (6:18- 6:25pm)

Dr. Lien shared that the fund balance is currently at 20% of the budget, and enrollment is five students below budget projections. The team will discuss a revised budget plan based on the updated enrollment figures.

Filling the Treasurer Position:
Following Mr. Klisch's resignation, two parents expressed interest in joining the Finance Committee and filling the Treasurer position. They attended the board meeting to learn more about the board and its responsibilities.

IV. Governance Committee (6:25-6:35 pm)

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

- Policy 516.5 - OD Medication
- Policy 413 - Harassment
- Policy 609 - Religion
- Policy 721 - Procurement

Mr. Landahl brought the following policies for the second reading:

- Policy 515 - Student Privacy
- Policy 419 - Tobacco
- Policy 616 - Accountability
- Policy 702 - Repealed

The MOTION by Mr. Strahan to approve Policy 515, 419, 616, and repeal 702 was seconded and passed.

V. Fundraising Committee (6:35-6:38 pm)

Mr. Huang shared the events the committee is planning for this year. The net proceeds from the fundraising efforts will be finalized and shared soon. Once the amount is confirmed, the committee will plan the fundraising goal for this year.

VI. Initial Discussion on 2027-2028 Enrollment Planning (6:39- 7:03 pm)

Ms. Ebinger presented the background and impact of enrollment decisions on student enrollment and the school budget. Dr. Lien presented two options for projected enrollment over the next few years. The board discussed the implications of the number of kindergarten sections planned for the future. The board also discussed the impact of the current Leave of Absence policy on certain Yinghua Academy families. The school will consult its legal counsel regarding the flexibility of the policy, and then discuss the details at the future board meeting.

VII. Strategic Plan and Board Retreat (7:04-7:32 pm)

- Discussion of last month's School Climate Survey presentation.
  - At the strategic planning meeting, we will address major concerns, including school lunches and teacher salaries.
- Next steps on strategic planning
  - We will determine the next steps once we receive more information about the different proposals from different organizations or individuals who are interested in leading the strategic planning for us.
- Board retreat purpose & goals
  - We are planning to hold a board retreat before the strategic planning process to identify the board's expectations for YA and establish a foundation for strategic planning.
  - The collaboration among FOYA, YACA, and YA is important to explore and clarify.
- Board evaluation
  - We will use Charter Source to conduct a board self-evaluation survey to reflect on the board's effectiveness.

VIII. Highlights of Executive Director's Report (7:33-7:42 pm)

Dr. Lien highlighted the following updates:

- YA achieved high average scores across all subject areas on the MCA, with results exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- Celebrated the highlights of the 2026 school rankings, which recognize YA's academic excellence.
- Provided professional development opportunities for staff to deepen their understanding of the difficulty level of Chinese Language Arts and effective approaches to teaching Chinese characters.
- Celebrated the continued success of the 888 Giving Club fundraising efforts.

IX. Public Comment

NA

X. ADJOURN (7:42-7:42 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 November 16th, 2026.