

YINGHUA ACADEMY
Minutes from the Board Meeting
(as approved at the 1/9/06 board meeting)
December 19, 2005
6:30 – 8:30PM
St. Anthony Park Library

Cindy Moeller, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Current Board Members in Attendance

Danling Cai, Cheryl Dickson, Cindy Moeller, Doug Parish, Kristina Schatz, Jennifer Yan, Larry Yan, Jennifer Billig, and Zhining Chin

Current Board Members Not In Attendance

Laura Harris

Invited Guest

Margaret Wong (Founder and the Head of the Chinese Program at Breck School)

Welcome

Ms. Moeller welcomed everyone to the board meeting. Each attendee introduced himself/herself.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Ms. Moeller distributed audit reports to board members in attendance.

Governance Issues

The board approved by acclamation the addition of Michael Van Keulen to the Yinghua Academy board of directors. Mr. Van Keulen participated in the 12/5/05 board meeting. At that time board members had the opportunity to get acquainted with Mr. Van Keulen and learn about his extensive background in education.

Facility Update

Ms. Schatz provided an update on the search for a school facility. Site visits to St. Columba Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary occurred on December 15th. St. Columba was a nice facility, but much too large for our needs as a start up. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at 1550 Summit Avenue in Saint Paul was very positive. The site was previously a school and has a gymnasium and a kitchen. To further investigate this site Ms. Moeller will set up an additional site visit with John Ryberg from the MN Department of Education.

Language Immersion

Our guest Ms. Wong updated the board on her involvement with the Asia Society and the research that they have been conducting on Mandarin language acquisition. She reported that the number one problem in the immersion education model is the lack of qualified teachers. She discussed the need for parent involvement and English language exposure outside of the classroom. She advised on the use of Amity Scholars and teacher trainings.

The board continued with additional discussion about a variety of language immersion models. Board members briefly shared information that they had collected from interviews with and on-site visits to several immersion programs and offered their perspectives of different models.

After a healthy discussion, board members individually shared their opinion on how they would like Yinghua to approach Mandarin language acquisition. Since nearly all of the Board Members clearly leaned toward full immersion Ms. Chin made a motion to adopt Full Immersion as our model for Mandarin Language Acquisition. Mr. Parish seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mission Statement

Board discussed the need to quickly agree on a Mission Statement for the school so that we can begin our publicity campaign. The goal is to have materials about the school available for the Chinese New Year celebrations beginning at the end of January. Ms. Schatz and Ms. Moeller agreed to draft a Mission Statement before the next Board Meeting.

Resignation

With great regret the board accepted the resignation of Ms. Dickson from the board. Ms. Dickson had indicated several months ago that she would be resigning from the board at the end of December due to other commitments. In submitting her resignation, Ms. Dickson reaffirmed that she is very supportive of a Chinese immersion school, that she believes the idea had significant potential, and that she believes there is a strong board to continue to develop the school.

Ms. Moeller adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.