

Yinghua Academy Board Meeting Minutes  
March 3, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cindy Moeller, Luyi Lien, Kristina Schatz, Doug Parish, Clark Liu, Margaret Wong, Joe Yang

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Van Keulen, Larry Yan, Sandy Doubek

DIRECTOR IN ATTENDANCE

Betsy Lueth

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Justin Straub, a Yinghua Academy parent

Ms. Moeller called the meeting to order at 6:38m.

AGENDA

After a couple of modifications to the agenda, Mr. Parish made a motion to approve the agenda and Ms. Wong seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2/11/08 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

After a couple of corrections, Mr. Liu made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Parish seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Straub indicated that the response he has received from other parents about the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond Process has been positive.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ENROLLMENT

Two kindergartners were added bringing current enrollment to 152 students.

FACILITIES

Ms. Lueth will provide the January financials to the landlord and will contact Bob Kasten to post the January financials on the Yinghua website.

FINANCIAL/GRANT

Except for the World Languages Grant, Yinghua is grant free.

Ms. Lueth will begin the FLAP grant application process.

REPORTING

Ms. Lueth submitted the transportation report to MDE, advising that Yinghua will not be using St. Paul Public School's transportation during the 2008-2009 school year.

With the input of the board, Ms. Lueth will prepare the Spring parent survey which will focus only on the present conditions at Yinghua.

## CURRICULUM

Dr. Lien's, Peng Laoshi's and Yeh Laoshi's visit to Woodstock elementary school went very well. Yinghua will look into inviting Woodstock teachers to visit Yinghua during Spring Break.

## STAFFING

Ms. Lueth and Dr. Lien will be meeting tomorrow to discuss staffing and curriculum needs

Ms. Lueth will be meeting with Karen Ballmer of MDE to discuss obtaining 1 year and 3 year visas.

Hamline has expressed stronger interest in working with Yinghua to provide student teachers. The Board will research potential funding sources for the student teachers.

## STUDENTS/FAMILIES

Ms. Lueth reported academic, social and disciplinary challenges with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade this year. Ms. Lueth advised that a new plan has been implemented to address those challenges. If the new plan does not appear to be yielding the desired results by March 24, 2008, Ms. Lueth will consider requesting an additional education assistant for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class.

## UPDATES/OLD BUSINESS

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Budget

- Mr. Parish reported that Yinghua is on track with the projected fund balance budget.

#### Auditor RFP

- All three potential audit firms have sent their RFP response to Mr. Parish. Interviews will be conducted at Yinghua Academy for each firm in the near future.

#### Banking Alternatives

- Mr. Parish and Ms. Moeller are reviewing banking alternatives for the school. Mr. Parish is reviewing cash management method software as well as direct deposit, on-line payment options and vehicles to sweep excess cash into advantageous deposit accounts

## FACILITIES

Ms. Moeller and Ms. Lueth will research charter schools that have financed construction of school facilities through the issuance of municipal bonds

Ms. Schatz will discuss Yinghua's current build-out needs with the landlord.

The board discussed forming a Facilities subcommittee.

## YACA UPDATE

Ms. Moeller reported that the Direct Drive went very well and recognized the exemplary efforts of two Yinghua parents, Jennifer Daul and Clayton Black, in making the Direct Drive a success.

Ms. Moeller reported that Beth Topoluk from Friends of Ascension, Yinghua Academy's sponsor, will be the featured speaker at this Thursday's 5pm general membership meeting.

#### MARKETING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Schatz reported that the Marketing Committee will be taking a brief hiatus since Yinghua has exceeded its recruiting goals for next year. Mr. Liu expressed his gratitude to each and every member of the Marketing Committee for their time, commitment and expertise, which was echoed by the remaining board members.

#### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND BEYOND

Ms. Lueth and Ms. Moeller reported that there was good turnout at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond parent meetings and that they felt the parents supported the Board's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond decisions.

Mr. Parish made a motion to petition the Minnesota Department of Education for a K-12 charter, enabling Yinghua to offer K-8 education if it is determined that Yinghua can do so in a fiscally responsible manner that will not negatively impact Yinghua's current education goals. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schatz and approved unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Schatz made a motion to continue the number of board members at ten board members for the next elections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wong and approved unanimously.

Except for Dr. Lien, Mr. Liu and Mr. Yang, the remaining board members will inform the board by the next board meeting whether they intend to remain on the board, leave the board or run for a board position at the next election.

##### BOARD MEETINGS

Ms. Schatz made a motion to add 7/21/08, 8/4/08, 8/18/08, 9/8/08 and 9/29/08 as new board meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parish and approved unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Wong made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Schatz seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Moeller adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.