

Yinghua Academy

Minutes of April 24, 2006 Board Meeting (as approved on 5/8/06)

St. Anthony Park Library

Cindy Moeller convened the meeting at 6:30.

Board Members in Attendance

Zhining Chin, Cindy Moeller, Doug Parish, Kristina Schatz, Michael VanKeulen, Jennifer Yan, Larry Yan.

Board Members Not in Attendance

Danling Cai (travelling in China), Laura Offerdahl Harris, Margaret Wong

Ms. Moeller first introduced the visitors to the board meeting: Patti Anderson; Jennifer Daul; Christina Erickson; and Jon Gutierrez, director and board chair for St. Croix Preparatory Academy, a charter school in Stillwater..

Ms. Moeller invited Mr. Gutierrez to give a presentation about using the Core Knowledge Sequence at St. Croix Prep. He shared the merits of Core Knowledge, i.e., bringing the world to school, helping building a solid foundation of knowledge for students to move upward. He talked about how to balance the MN state standards and Core Knowledge by doing curriculum mapping. He also expressed willingness to share resources. Some of the board members asked him questions related to assessment, instructional strategies, etc.

Following Mr. Gutierrez's discussion of Core Knowledge, Ms. Moeller officially called the meeting to order at 7:15.

In regard to the 4/10 minutes, Mr. Parish asked that the words be revised to read "Mrs. Wong expressed that she would contact James Campbell about Yinghua Academy." Ms. Chin asked to revise "Jebe to Jeby." Mr. VanKeulen moved for the approval of the 4/10 minutes with the above revisions. Mr. Parish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Van Keulen moved for the approval of the agenda for today. Ms. Chin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resignation of a Board Member

Ms. Moeller informed that Danling Cai had decided to resign from the board since she is traveling to China so much and is often unable to attend board meetings. The board expressed its appreciation for Danling Cai's involvement with Yinghua Academy. It was suggested that Ms. Moeller follow up her resignation and seek for her continuing involvement and help in the school.

Finance Update

Mr. Parish had not yet received the most recent report from Beltz Kes, so Mr. Parish will provide more information at the 5/8 board meeting. The board approved the payment of the bill from John Cairns, which was for his review of the lease for Yinghua's building at 1355 Pierce Butler.

Human Resources

Ms. Moeller informed the board that the candidate to whom the director position was offered will make a decision no later than Wednesday April 26.

Ms. Moeller suggested there needs to be a job description for the Office Manager position. Ms. Schatz expressed a strong desire and interest in participating in this job interview.

Ms. Moeller informed that she was contacted by a volunteer who has experience in registering students, etc., at another school. It was agreed that Ms. Moeller would follow up with her.

Ms. Moeller proposed that Yinghua participate in MN Association of Charter Schools Job Fair in May, seeking potential teachers and getting our school known to more people. The board agreed to pay the \$25 registration fee.

Ms. Moeller mentioned the opportunity for our director to participate in a trip to China with the MN Commissioner of Education at the end of June. This trip is being organized by the China Center at the University of Minnesota. It was agreed that director should go and school would reimburse travel costs of about \$2000.

Proposal for Establishing a Parent Teacher Organization

Two parents proposed the establishment of a PTO (parent teacher organization). After discussing the function and mission of the organization, the two parents (Jennifer Daul and Christina Erickson) were encouraged to continue to develop their ideas and to bring a more detailed proposal, including a draft of by-laws, to the next board meeting. There was also a discussion of the possibility of the parent teacher organization seeking its own 501(c)(3) status.

Marketing Updates

Ms. Schatz noted that:

- 1) Lawn sign will be ready in a week and will be put up in different areas;
- 2) Newspaper advertisements at all levels will be shown during the important student recruiting months of May, June and July;
- 3) Mrs. Chin suggested she will explore the market in west metro area. Ms. Schatz will contact a parent (Patti Anderson) who lives in St. Louis Park.

At the meeting, Mr. Van Keulen suggested a small group have an initial meeting with Nina Axelson from Best Buy to explore the support that Best Buy might be able to offer to Yinghua Academy. Mr. Van Keulen will look into possible dates and times for this meeting.

Mr. Van Keulen also suggested that the topic of how to approach the MN Commissioner of Education and inform her of our school before her China trip should be put on our next board meeting agenda.

Full-day/Half-day Kindergarten

After a spirited discussion about the pros and cons of full day/half day kindergarten, Ms. Schatz proposed two possibilities: academic-oriented full-day kindergarten or half-academic, half-enrichment program. The discussion will continue at the next board meeting.

There was a brief discussion of a very well-qualified candidate for music teacher, who will be unavailable for interviewing from early May till September, due to her travels to China. It was agreed that Ms. Yan and Mr. Yan and potentially one or two other board members will interview this candidate ASAP, before she leaves for China.

At 8:50, Ms. Moeller moved for adjournment. Ms. Schatz seconded. The board unanimously passed the motion.