

YACA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 18, 2007
Yinghua Academy
final

Meeting was called to order at 6: 40 pm

Board Members in Attendance

Aura Lee Besse, Cindy Moeller, Christina Erickson, Jennifer Daul, Janine Trutna, Sandy Doubek, Jean Parish

Board Members Not in Attendance

Review and Approve Agenda

Ms. Trutna forwarded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of moving the by-laws to the May meeting.

Ms. Parish seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve minutes from March 14th meeting

Ms. Parish forwarded a motion to approve the minutes with no additional changes or corrections.

Ms Besse seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve minutes from March 28th meeting

Ms. Trutna forwarded a motion to approve the minutes with no additional changes or corrections.

Ms Besse seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Standing Reports

Treasurer:

Ms. Besse gave an overview of the current funds raised for the school by YACA.

Yinghua School Board Report:

Ms. Doubek gave an enrollment update for the 2007 – 2008 school year that is currently at 135 students enrolled.

In-addition to the current enrollment update, Ms. Doubek presented to the board Ms. Lueth's recommendation for YACA to coordinate volunteers for the parent school tours during the 2007 – 2008 school year.

Ms. Moeller shared with the board a few of items the school board is currently reviewing:

- The school board is reviewing the 2007 – 2008 school calendar, which generally will follow St. Paul Public School’s calendar with a few additional days added for teacher education and training.
- The school board is reviewing the possibility of leasing the additional space in the current school building.
- There are a few candidates running for the Yinghua Academy School Board Election for the 2007- 2008 school year.
- Ms. Lueth is currently interviewing teachers for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

Communications:

Ms Trutna gave a financial update on the Direct Drive Fundraiser. Ms. Parish recommended that YACA board send a Thank You to the parents in the kids’ backpacks for their donation and include information from the General membership meeting.

The board decided that YACA communications would be sent home monthly in the kids’ backpack starting May 2007. In addition, Ms. Trutna recommended that YACA Agendas be sent to Ms. Lueth each month.

Old Business:

May 30th – General Membership meeting Election Slate - Voting

Ms. Erickson gave an update on the candidates interested in running for the YACA board for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

There are currently two individuals interested in joining the YACA board for the 2007 – 2008 school year. The board discussed other potential candidates and will continue to work on communicating to parents for growing the prospect list.

By May 30th general election Ms. Erickson will get the election slate created with general information about the candidates.

Ms. Daul brought to the board for further discussion a fee-based childcare during May 30th General Membership meeting. Discussion was held around the structuring of the fee-based childcare during the May 30th meeting. Ms. Parish made a recommendation to the board that there are two childcare providers inside and two childcare providers outside on the playground. In addition, the possibility of grouping the children by age in the different areas of the building. Ms. Besse will talk to Mr. Yan about providing fee-based childcare during the May 30th general meeting. Ms. Erickson will discuss with Ms. Lueth about additional assistance from a few current Yinghua Academy volunteers and employees.

Ms. Trutna will create a form for announcing the childcare that will be sent home in the kids' backpack that will need to be filled out and returned prior to the May 30th General Membership meeting. It was recommended that a maximum number of children for childcare be established prior to this announcement. Ms. Erickson recommended that YACA pay for the childcare for the meeting. Ms. Trutna will create the childcare announcement and return slip. A reminder will go out for the meeting the week prior to the May 30th meeting.

Ms. Erickson highlighted a few items for the May 30th YACA general meeting.

- Agenda
- Dessert and Refreshments
- State of the School
- Voting
- Count the votes

Ms. Erickson recommended we keep the meeting to one hour.

Spring Carnival School Event:

Ms. Doubek brought to the board for discussion from Ms. Lueth, having YACA assist with the "give back to the community" fundraising event during the school carnival. After discussion the board decided that YACA would be willing to donate time towards the event and asks that the School Carnival committee continue coordinating the "give back to the community" fundraising event.

June 10th School Board Picnic:

Ms. Moeller gave the board updated information for the June 10th School Board picnic. It will be held at the Newell Park Building. The picnic will include current Yinghua Academy families. New enrolled families will not be invited. School Board would like YACA's assistance for this picnic.

Teacher/Staff appreciation:

Ms. Doubek volunteered to work with Ms. Lueth to create the Teacher/Staff appreciation book. Ms. Doubek will research pricing and send an email to the YACA board members. In addition, give an update at the May YACA board meeting.

Family Mentors:

Ms. Doubek discussed the recommendation from Ms. Lueth for YACA to coordinate the New Parent Mentorship Program for current enrolled families for the 2007 – 2008 school year

Some general ideas are:

- Set up guidelines for the mentorship.
- Send out note with the May letter.

Ms. Erickson and Ms. Daul will draft the letter for the board to review at the May board meeting. In addition, possibly set up a general YACA email account through Yinghua

Academy for responses. Ms. Moeller and Ms. Besse will discuss with Bob Kasten on how to set a new email account to possibly forward to Ms. Daul's personal email account. It was recommended that the Yinghua Academy website information for YACA contacts to be changed to Jennifer Daul at yaca@yinghuaacademy.org.

By-Laws: Moved to the May board meeting

New Business:

Meetings after May: Moved to May board meeting.

Artistic Partnership:

Ms. Parish shared with the board information she received from various Artistic Partnerships for Yinghua Academy and reviewed with Ms. Lueth.

1. MacPhail Center for Music
2. St Paul Chamber Orchestra
3. VocalEssence
4. Minnesota Orchestra
5. Children's Theatre Company
6. Minneapolis Institute of Arts
7. Northern Clay Center
8. Minnesota Dance Theatre and Dance Institute
9. Young Audiences of MN

Ms. Parish will continue to work with Ms. Lueth on developing an Artistic Partnership for Yinghua Academy School and will be giving the board updates during future meetings.

Clothing Sale/Exchange:

The board decided to hold the Clothing Sale/Exchange in the later part of the summer. Further discussion will be held at future board meetings

YACA Website:

No updates for a YACA section on the Yinghua Academy Website.

Date for August Picnic:

Discussion will be held at future board meetings.

Summer get together:

YACA will coordinate information once each month get-togethers during the summer months.

Ms. Besse forwarded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm