

**YACA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday March 20th, 2008**  
**Yinghua Academy**  
*final*

Ms. Erickson called to order at 6:40 pm

**Board Members Present**

Janine Trutna, Christina Erickson, Clayton Black, Jean Parish, Deb Volkert, Julie McCormick, Cindy Moeller

**Board Members Not Present**

Sandy Doubek, Jennifer Daul

**Agenda**

Agenda approved without changes  
Ms. Volkert motions to approve the agenda  
Ms. McCormick seconds  
Motion approved unanimously.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes are amended to state that Julie McCormick and Clayton Black were in attendances.  
Minutes are amended to capitalize the W and P in Witness Program  
Ms. Volkert motions to approve the minutes  
Ms. Erickson seconds.  
Motion approved unanimously.

**Standing Reports**

**Chairperson's report:**

Ms. Erickson met with the University of MN IT department about teaching partnerships. She will keep exploring the possibilities.  
Ms. Parish would like all of these ideas lumped in with Artistic Partnerships for coordination and budgetary reasons. Ms. Erickson would bring ideas to Ms. Parish, and then to Ms. Lien and Ms. Lueth for approval. The point is brought up that we need to make sure that we are not taking up too much time in the year's schedule with partnerships.

Ms Erickson reported that Sandy Norris (parent of Mamie) will take the position as our treasurer. She would be a board member, but would not attend most meetings. Ms McCormick would be her liaison. She has 501c3 experience.

Ms McCormick has a contact to help with 501c3. She suggested that we go to another charter school or parent group that has already gone through this procedure. Suggestions for other schools to look at include:

- Lakes International Language Academy. Contact - Shannon Peterson, Ms Lueth will have her information.
- Twin Cities German Immersion School
- Paideia Academy – an Ascension School

It is suggested that we find a parent who is an attorney to go over our application first. Joe Yang of the Yinghua Academy Board is recommended.

Ms. McCormick will look into recruiting the help of the Dendros Group in the 501c3 application process.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Reported by Ms Erickson.

The Direct Drive has raised \$13,410 thus far before counting matching grants. Ms Kreitzer is working to get matching grants. The total for matching grants is predicted to be \$1000. The total cost of the drive was \$200. The effort was helped by many volunteer hours.

### **Budget discussion**

There is a lot of discussion about what to show on the budget and how to show it. Specifically, should Childcare appear on the budget, since the school pays for it? It is suggested that the Direct Drive should be raised with the understanding that the money will be used for the following year, and that we should be more forward thinking with this fund. That way we will know the exact amount we have to spend on a year's activities at the start of the year. Ms. Parish is suggested that we commit to \$10,000 for next year and ask the school to sponsor \$10,000 in addition. She stated that in one or two years we need to have it sustainable and built into the next year's budget.

The current budget is not final yet. We decided that we will put together a textual budget summary for the website. Ms. Trutna has volunteered to do this.

### **School Board Report:**

Ms. Moeller reports that the board has approved 3 kindergarten classes for next year. They have also approved a plan for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond that would be in the same building with kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The school would go through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The board is currently looking into some facilities. Mr. Yang is bringing in business people to discuss possibly building a school, creating a company that owns it and having the school lease it. Currently Minneapolis won't lease facilities to charter schools, but that may change since they are under huge financial trouble.

### **Additional discussion with Ms. Moeller**

Ms Lien is moving on maternity leave soon and there is woman from Massachusetts to help her out.

Ms Moeller has a new job. She is starting a new corporation that is called Charter School Partners. They will help existing and soon to open schools to setup and work on achievement. They will also be advocating for charter schools. She met with Dick Cohen at the legislature to discuss charter schools. Ms. Moeller will be Interim Executive Director for six months. The corporation is sponsored by the Walton Foundation and the TCF foundation.

### **Subcommittees:**

#### **Fundraising:**

Great Gatherings:

The Schifskys and Danling Cai will be holding a great gathering that will cost around \$100 person and be open to 12 people. The numbers are tentative at this point. Mr. Black will speak to his brother about distributors that may be willing to provide a Chinese beer and wine donation.

Ms. Parish will host Wine tasting with a donation of wine by the Wine Thief. It will focus on bottles of wine under \$20. The cost will be \$30 per person and be open to 35 people at Ms. Parish's home. A pre-buy wine sheet will be given to participants with 30% of sales from the night going to Yinghua Academy. There is currently no date set for this gathering.

Ms Volkert is considering a reprise of her previous Great Gathering.

Abigail Pribenow and Ms Erickson are planning an urban campout in the Pribenow's screened in porch with breakfast on the Mississippi River. The cost will be \$50 and be open to 15 kids. The gathering is open to boys and girls in the first grade only. They will allow age appropriate siblings to attend. A permission slip will need to be created and distributed for the campout. The notice has to be in backpacks the same day in both 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes for fairness sake and will be delivered in backpacks only.

#### **Artistic Partnerships:**

The newsletter will come out in early April. Ms. Parish will put in a notice about the Northern Clay Company partnership happening in April.

#### **Old Business**

Direct drive: covered in the Treasurer's report.

Other old business items were wrapped up in the earlier Standing reports or the member reporting was not present to report.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Nominations and Elections:**

Ms. Parish, Ms. Trutna, Ms. Doubek and Ms. Erickson will be rotating off of the YACA board this summer. The YACA General Membership will be voting on the following positions:

Vice Chair

Secretary

Two General Members.

We discussed the need for a nominations committee. We decided that we would advertise for the positions first and form a nominations committee only if we are not getting a good response. We will advertise the positions at the top of the YACA Newsletter. Christina wants to run the nominations committee if we form one.

There will be an April 25<sup>th</sup> deadline for applications. Each applicant will be asked to provide a statement and to speak at the General Membership Meeting.

##### **May General Membership Meeting**

The Board has set the General Membership Meeting from May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

Tentative (and humorous title): Vittles, Votes and Visit (No Varmints)

##### **Welcoming new families**

We will have all the new families' names in the first week of April. Members of the YACA board will be calling them, but we also have a few people that have volunteered for this job. Ms Lueth will approve helpers and then the YACA board will put together materials for them.

**Yinghua Clean Up Day**

Clean-Up Day is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a tentative time of 10 am to 3pm. There will be now childcare, but we will encourage kids to help out. Ms McCormick has volunteered to help with organizing the event  
Library day is also May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms Trutna will be coordinating Library Day with Ms Kreitzer.

**Yinghua School Carnival**

The YACA Board has decided that it will be sponsoring the School Carnival.

**Adjourn**

Ms. Erickson adjourned the meeting 8:15 pm.

Next Board Meeting date is Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 6:30 pm