

YACA Board Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2009
Yinghua Academy
FINAL

Ms. Daul called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Board Members Present

Clayton Black, Jennifer Daul, Susan Green, Wendie Lindberg, Julie McCormick, Cindy Moeller, Sandy Norris, Jean Parish, Deb Volkert

Board Members Not Present

Paul Scanlon

Others Present

Aura Lee Besse, Tess DeGeest, Mary Woodley, Ana Ly

Agenda

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. McCormick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

Minutes

Ms. Parish made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2009 Board meeting. Ms. McCormick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Parish made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2009 General Membership meeting. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Ms. Besse, Great Gatherings Coordinator, discussed the low level of interest and participation in this year's Great Gatherings offerings. Other schools and organizations have had success with Great Gatherings as a fundraising method. The Board will include the issue of Great Gatherings in its year-end parent survey, and review and discuss the issue further at the July Board meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Besse for her efforts on Great Gatherings.

Ms. Daul noted that Mark Ye, Yinghua parent, had been on the agenda to discuss yearbook photos and funding, but apparently was not present.

Standing Reports

Chair/ Co-Chair:

Ms. Daul reported that elections for YACA Board positions will be held at the next General Membership meeting on May 7th. Interested candidates need to contact Ms. Daul by April 15th and then submit a statement of interest and qualifications to Ms. Daul by April 27th. The open positions are three general representatives and the Vice Chair. Ms. Daul will ask Rebecca Krietzer to place a box at Yinghua to collect candidate statements.

Ms. Parish proposed changing the May Board meeting to May 19th and the Board agreed. Dates were discussed for summer meetings and set for Thursday June 18th and Wednesday July 8th.

Secretary:

Ms. Lindberg distributed copies of the General Membership survey results, collected at the February General Membership meeting. A similar end-of-year parent survey will be conducted as well.

Treasurer:

Ms. Norris distributed the current financial statement. 120 receipts were printed for Red Envelope campaign donations. The total raised was \$25,880. The 'Uniforms with Experience' sale in February raised \$156. The amount raised in excess of \$17,500 will be used for next year's Artistic Partnerships. The goal is to move toward raising funds to cover the next school year's Artistic Partnerships. An upcoming expense will be \$500 for the school carnival. The end of the fiscal year is June.

Ms. Green made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Ms. Parish seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Daul asked Ms. Norris to prepare notes explaining the YACA Treasurer's duties.

Volunteer Coordinator:

No report.

School Board Liaison:

Ms. Moeller reported that there are still issues to be resolved associated with the Putnam school facility. These are likely to be worked out; the Minneapolis School District and the Minneapolis Park Board still have issues to address.

Charter School Development Corporation (CSDC) will be the organization purchasing the Putnam building and leasing it to Yinghua Academy. CSDC is the current owner of the Great River School building in St. Paul and has been involved in the sale and purchase of a Minneapolis School for the Hiawatha Leadership Academy.

The Yinghua Foundation (formerly known as Friends of Yinghua Academy) was originally set up as a separate nonprofit for YACA and the capital campaign. Under IRS regulations the proposed structure for the Yinghua Foundation would be as a "supporting organization". The organization's sole purpose would be to develop opportunities to bring in revenue and help secure the school's financial future. YACA funds would be used as designated by YACA, through the Yinghua Foundation. The next step is to file for 501c3 status.

Subcommittee Reports**Communications:**

Ms. Daul discussed an end-of-year parent survey which should include questions on programming and events. Ms. Lindberg will contact Mr. Scanlon and follow-up with Mr. Black on creating a survey using an online tool such as Survey Monkey. Ms. Lindberg will also draft survey questions to be reviewed at the next Board meeting. Topics should include fundraising, Blue Sky Guides and Great Gatherings.

Ms. Parish noted that a writer for the YACA Newsletter will be needed. Board members were asked to identify anyone who might be interested. Interested volunteers should contact Ms. Parish or Ms. Daul. This could be something done by a team or an individual and the time commitment is a few hours a month.

Fundraising:

Red Envelope campaign and Great Gatherings covered above. Ms. Daul noted that a decision will need to be made on doing the Blue Sky Guide fundraiser for the 2009-2010 school year. The new Board should vote on this in July or August.

Ms. Green identified several promising grant opportunities for schools. The opportunities were discussed and reviewed. Ms. DeGeest and Ms. Moeller are involved with the School Board's Grant Writing Committee which is also researching grants. Ms. Green's grant opportunities are a welcome addition to that work and Ms. Green will coordinate with this group.

School and Family Events:

Ms. Daul noted that the purpose for summer events is for student and parent interaction. In prior years YACA has coordinated two summer events plus the Back to School Picnic, the last week in August. Last year the library night at school and the Newell Park play dates were well attended.

June 22, 2009 from 6 to 8 pm was set for a Newell Park play date. Ms. Parrish will research a location for a July play date. The Back-to-School picnic will be held August 30th. A location will be determined, which will likely be influenced by the location of the school.

Ms. Daul noted that the next General Membership meeting will be May 7, 2009.

Kindergarten Round-up will be held on May 28th at Yinghua. Ms. Green will be there and others will be needed as well to introduce YACA to new families and to provide information on volunteer opportunities. Ms. Parish will request Sarah Kirkwood, Newsletter Editor, to update the YACA brochure prior to Kindergarten Round-up.

New families should be called by YACA Board members again this year, in the summer.

Education:

Ms. Parrish noted that the speaker at the next General Membership meeting will be Nyssa Brown, on the topic of arts education. She reported that many of Yinghua's Arts Partners have made very generous donations. These donations will be given away as prizes to those attending the meeting. These donations include: Northern Clay Center – a three hour workshop; the Science Museum – four tickets; Vocal Essence – two tickets; McPhail – a \$500 summer camp certificate.

Ms. Parish has been talking with Ms. Lueth about Arts Partnerships for next year and she will be getting ideas from Ms. Lueth soon.

Grounds:

Ms. Volkert reported that she will be getting input from Ms. Lueth on scheduling a spring clean-up day for the current school building.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

Ms. Daul adjourned at the meeting at 8:40.

Next Board Meeting date is Monday, April 20, 2009; location to be determined.