

Regular Meeting of the Yinghua Academy School Board
1616 Buchanan Street NE, Minneapolis, MN, Music Room
Monday, April 15, 2013, 6:00 PM
FINAL

Board Members in Attendance: Lou Bender, Denny Grubish (Treasurer), Walt Graff, Ruth Hansen, Scott Jax, Rosemary Lawrence, Karen Lu (Secretary), Jen Shadowens (Chair), Seth Werner

Board Members not in Attendance: Joel O'Malley

Executive Director in Attendance: Mrs. Sue Berg

YACA Chair not in Attendance: Christopher Brooks

Facilities Committee Members in Attendance: Jeremy Brewer, Stephen Campagnola, Carl Gauley, Margaret Metzdorff, Cindy Moeller, Dave Waldoch, Lee Williams

Board Guests in Attendance: Kou Vang, Jennifer Vanyo

Public in Attendance: Becky Hoffmann, Susan Peterson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shadowens called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. APPROVALS

a. 4/15/13 Agenda

Ms. Shadowens added II. Approvals c. Northeast Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee Appointment. Ms. Lu added V. Finance b. Five-Year Budget Model.

The MOTION by Ms. Bender to approve the agenda as amended was seconded and passed.

b. 3/18/13 Minutes

Mrs. Berg made a minor edit.

The MOTION by Ms. Hansen to approve the minutes as amended was seconded and passed.

c. Northeast Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee Appointment

Ms. Shadowens recommended appointing Maura Trout (parent) as the Yinghua representative to the Northeast Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee.

The MOTION by Mr. Jax to approve the appointment of Maura Trout to the Northeast Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee was seconded and passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. FACILITIES

Mr. Jax provided an update on Facilities Committee work (see Board Packet for minutes) and noted that RJM was unwilling to meet the desired GMP without sacrificing more project scope.

Mr. Vang summarized the process with RJM to date and indicated that in order to meet the budget, the scope would need to be further reduced. As a result, Mr. Vang, along with consultation with Karl Jentoft, re-opened the project bidding process and invited Black|Dew and Rochon Corporation to participate. Mr. Vang reviewed a comparison of the budget and scope from all three contractors. Questions and discussion followed. Ms. Metzdorff emphasized the need to prioritize renovation of the existing building. Mr. Vang will continue to work with the Facilities Committee to refine scope and identify value engineering opportunities. Ms. Shadowens noted that the GMP contract will need to be signed this week. Ms. Shadowens and Mr. Jax recommended the board select Black|Dew as the general contractor. Discussion followed.

The MOTION by Mr. Grubish to recommend Black|Dew as general contractor with a GMP of \$6.6 million to Educational Properties was endorsed by the Facilities Committee and seconded and passed by the Board.

V. FINANCE

Mr. Grubish provided an update on Finance Committee work and presented the March financials (see Board Packet for details). Mr. Grubish described circumstances leading up to the April 10 Emergency Finance Committee meeting, a projected deficit resulting primarily from additional benefits, the Community Services Fund, and the Food Services Fund. The Finance Committee worked with Mrs. Berg, Ms. Vanyo, and BKDA to reduce conservatively projected expenditures where appropriate (“true-up”) and cut expenses, which resulted in a break-even budget. Ms. Shadowens added that, in the past couple of days, with generous gifts pledged of \$50,000 from two anonymous donors, Yinghua is projected to end the year with a surplus. Additional fundraising is also being considered to further restore the projected surplus for the year.

Ms. Shadowens presented the revised five-year budget model and challenged the board to build future budgets around a specified surplus amount that is perhaps higher than the projected surplus each year. Establishing this surplus goal, revising the aftercare pricing plan, and establishing the FY 14 budget will require the work of the Finance Committee and possibly others.

Mr. Werner requested further detail on the timeline regarding determination of the bond rating and interest rate. Questions and discussion followed. The board will reconvene in order to approve the bond once more information is known.

VI. ACADEMICS

Dr. Lawrence presented Term 2 DDI End-of-Term Results and noted that the non-standardized assessments were being implemented for the first time. Mrs. Berg clarified that the results are from

Term 2 finals only and would be used to determine whether or not the same material is being taught and tested. Letters sent to select parents/guardians regarding student performance were based on the student's academic work during the year to date and not related solely to the student's DDI test results. Questions and discussion followed. Dr. Lawrence noted that Yinghua is in the beginning stages of establishing a degree of predictability with DDI and assessments.

VII. GOVERNANCE

Ms. Lu presented Policy No. 410 Family and Medical Leave Policy for approval. Questions and discussion followed. The section referring to collective bargaining will be deleted.

The MOTION by Mr. Jax to approve Policy No. 410 as amended was seconded and passed.

Ms. Lu reviewed the timeline for upcoming board elections and presented the Nominating Committee's research on electronic ballots. The Nominating Committee will follow up on the community email list and potential site outages. Ms. Lu also reminded board members of the upcoming School Board Primer on April 19 and the off-site Board Retreat on April 20.

VIII. PERSONNEL

Dr. Lawrence presented the Executive Director Evaluation process and timeline. For next year, the Personnel Committee would like to establish the evaluation as a year round process. Questions and discussion followed.

IX. AJOURN

The MOTION made by Mr. Jax to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. was seconded and passed.

Minutes drafted by Karen Lu, Secretary.

Approved by vote of Board on: May 13th, 2013.