

Meet Brian Strahan – Yinghua Academy School Board Candidate

Hello, I'm Brian Strahan, and I'm excited to be a candidate for the Yinghua Academy School Board. Since moving to Northeast Minneapolis in 2007, my wife, Deborah Mickley, and I have built our lives in this vibrant community. We're the proud parents of two Yinghua students—Scarlett and Maggie—and like many families here, we've come to deeply appreciate the school's strong academic program, values, and commitment to global citizenship.

A Background Rooted in Science, Building, and Family

I earned my B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota, where I met Deborah. I spent several years conducting research both at the U and in the private sector before making a shift—toward working with my hands and serving the community more directly. I founded Keep Smiling Builders, a small remodeling company focused on preserving the historic charm of Northeast Minneapolis homes while making them more sustainable and energy-efficient.

When our first daughter was born, I became a full-time parent—a role that gave me a deep, hands-on understanding of the challenges and joys families face in navigating education and community life. I later returned to study Architectural Technology at MCTC, with a focus on sustainable design and practical problem-solving—skills I believe are highly relevant in school board service.

Why I'm Running for School Board

As a parent and community member, I've seen how vital strong leadership is in shaping a school environment that supports not just academic success, but student well-being, teacher support, and family engagement. I'm running because I want to give back to a school that has given so much to my family—and to help ensure it continues to thrive for all students.

I believe in thoughtful, collaborative leadership. I'll bring a practical mindset, a deep appreciation for our diverse school community, and a commitment to transparency and inclusivity in decision-making. Whether it's budgeting, curriculum, facilities, or school culture—I'm ready to listen, learn, and help strengthen Yinghua for the years ahead.

I would be honored to earn your support and to serve this remarkable school community.

Let's continue to build something great—together.

Warmly,
Brian Strahan