

Yinghua Academy School Board Candidate Statement

My name is Pamella Stommes. I am running for the Yinghua Academy School Board to support our school in becoming even more inclusive—a nurturing environment for all students, teachers, parents, and staff—and a place that embraces transparency, cultural authenticity, and a strong focus on academic excellence.

I am a longtime educator and parent in the school. Since joining the faculty in 2011, I have helped shape a strong foundation for academic excellence by developing the middle school math curriculum. I have also served in various leadership positions as the Q Comp coordinator and the lead in the math department. In addition, I have been actively involved in school-wide development and planning roles as a finance committee member. Currently, I am a member of the development and fundraising committee. Therefore, I deeply understand our school's strengths and areas requiring continuous growth, both as a teacher and as a parent of two students—one in 3rd grade and one graduating from 8th grade.

One thing that sets our school apart is the authenticity of our Chinese immersion program, which integrates Chinese language and culture while maintaining a strong commitment to academic excellence. As we celebrate 20 years of impacting academic excellence for our students, I believe we should reassess how we align the school's vision with action. To become an elite immersion school in the U.S., we must evolve to honor our mission and the local community's needs. Therefore, we should offer professional development to our native-speaking teachers hired from overseas to help them understand the cultural and academic expectations of American students and their families.

Additionally, we should reflect on the school's identity as an American school that teaches Chinese language and culture. Therefore, we are responsible for upholding the U.S. teaching standards and creating a workplace culture that fosters professional sustainability, equity, and well-being. To achieve this, we need to enhance our support for students with special learning needs, ensure transparency in allocating financial resources, and provide a voice to all stakeholders in the decision-making process.

As a board representative, I will champion these initiatives to ensure Yinghua Academy's practices and policies reflect the evolving needs of all stakeholders. Together, we can build on Yinghua's remarkable legacy, guiding our school into its strongest future.