

Minutes of the ACLS Board of Directors Meeting 01-20-2013

Subject: Board Meeting of the school year 2012-2013

Attendees: Yanni Gou, Rixin Li, Wei Li, Jianying Shi, Derek Skawinski, Yanhua Tang, Guoying Zuo

Invited: Xuan Kong, Chair of the Acton-Boxborough School Committee

Absentee: Jeff Yang

Facilitator/Note Taker: Yanni Gou

Date: Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, 6:30pm-9:30pm

Location: 52 Wood Lane, Acton, MA 01720

Meeting Minutes

1. Acton-Boxborough school district request for financial support and co-sponsorship of an education event

Xuan Kong, Chair of the Acton-Boxborough School Committee talked about the background information in detail regarding this request. Acton-Boxborough Schools have invited Dr. Yong Zhao to visit the district. Dr. Yong Zhao is an internationally well-known scholar, author, and speaker. His work focuses on the implications of globalization and technology on education. He has published over 100 articles and 20 books, including “Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization” and “World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students”. He is a recipient of the “Early Career Award” from the American Educational Research Association and was named as one of the 2012 ten most influential people in educational technology by the “Tech & Learn Magazine”. He is an elected fellow of the International Academy for Education. Dr. Zhao was born in Sichuan, China. He received his B.A. in English Language Education from Sichuan Institute of Foreign Languages in Chongqing, China in 1986. After teaching English in China for six years, he came to Linfield College as a visiting scholar in 1992. He then began his graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1993. He received his A.M. in Education in 1994 and Ph.D. in 1996. He currently serves as the Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education in the College of Education, University of Oregon, where he is also Weinman Professor of Technology and Professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy, and Leadership.

Dr. Zhao will visit Acton on July 22 - 23. His public lecture will be on the evening of July 23 (Tuesday) on “how to educate creative and entrepreneurial students in today's global competitive world”. Dr. Zhao is intimately familiar with Chinese education system and value. His lecture should benefit in particular those parents who have received their education in China and want to guide their children in a more dynamic and challenging learning environment here in the US.

Dr. Zhao has agreed to an honorarium of \$4000 that is already lower than his typical amount. Acton-Boxborough school district made a request that ACLS to donate \$1000 in order to cover part of his honorarium. In addition, the district is seeking for some helps on selling Dr. Zhao's books at the public lecture event.

The board members all felt it should not be a problem to help out the book sales at the event. A proposal was made to Xuan Kong to pass to the school district for the possibility of having a meeting time with Dr. Zhao among ACLS staff, teachers, parents, etc. Xuan Kong agreed to pass this information to the school district.

The Acton-Boxborough School district serves about 5500 students and about 20% are from local Chinese American families. This educational event will certainly be beneficial to the community especially to the Chinese community. Rixin Li made a motion after Xuan Kong's departure to approve \$1000 from the long term fund to support Dr. Zhao's honorarium. Guoying Zuo seconded the motion. It was subsequently approved by unanimous votes.

2. Summary of "2012 Acton Chinese Music Night"

The "2012 Acton Chinese Music Night" on Dec. 2, 2012 was a great success. The auditorium reached its full capacity and almost half of the audience were non-Chinese. This success is out of great collaborations from the ACLS team, the Angel Dance Company, the Recreation Department of the Town of Acton, and the Acton-Boxborough Culture Council. Due to the busy schedule of the AB High School auditorium's usages Rixin Li had put a great effort working with the Community Education and the AB High School to secure the performance date. We finally got the permit on Oct. 18 and the event committee immediately planned out and executed a full force of actions. Yang Liu, a former board member, who was the coordinator for the 2007 Acton Chinese Music Night, led the collaboration between ACLS and the Angel Dance Company. Yanni Gou led the publicity and front stage crew. Li Yuan designed the flyer. Jill Lu designed the tickets. Jianguo Wang set up on-line tickets sale and the event website. Jianying Shi and Hanlan Liu led the tickets sale. Jianying Shi also has been in charge of the finance of this event. Yanhua Tang and Wei Li led the fundraising. Jeff Yang acted as stage manager. Guoying Zuo led the snack sale. Rick Jian and Lixin Sun led the security. Many volunteers helped publicity, tickets sale and various aspects to make it a successful event for the community.

Jianying Shi reported the financial status of this event. We have \$1100 surplus.

3. Financial report of school year of 2011-2012

Tax return 2011 Form 990 was filed in November by the CPA. ACLS had a total asset of \$202,280. For the school year of 2011-2012, there is a total surplus of \$2,654 with \$11,670 reserved fund for unpaid liability. The total number matches Jianying Shi's report which was presented to the board in September, 2012.

4. Long-term Fund

Yanni Gou informed the Board that the signatory for the operating fund with the Bank of America had been switched from former members to the current personnel: Board Chair (Yanni Gou), Treasurer in the Board (Wei Li), Principal (Rixin Li), Treasurer (Juan Wang), Accountant (Yingzi Wang). According to the information received from Accountant Yingzi Wang, the long term fund in the Middlesex Savings Bank is \$139,803 (total of 4 CDs). Board members had discussed and all are in an agreement to change the signatory for the long term fund from former members to personnel with the above roles. This should be done whenever there is a change of personnel. In addition, the surplus from the operating fund from recent years should be transferred to the Middlesex Savings Bank.

5. Budget application for 10th anniversary/Chinese New Year Celebration

The preparation for the 10th Anniversary & Chinese New Year Celebration is well on its way. The celebration is on Feb. 16, from 2:00-9:30pm. In the afternoon, there will be Teachers' conference (led by Lixin Sun), activities/games for children and adults (Led by Xia Man). Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30pm (led by Guoying Zuo). The celebration & performance will be from 7:00-9:30pm (led by Jeff Yang). Yanhua Tang will lead the front stage crew. In appreciation of the community the performance is free admission and the dinner tickets are at a discounted rate of \$8 (adults) and \$6 (students & seniors). The food will be ordered from Sichuan Gourmet, Spicepepper, etc. Other subcommittees include awards (led by Jianying Shi), publicity/slides & video show (led by Yanni Gou), special 10th Anniversary celebration journal (led by Li Yuan), ACLS & Me contests and program book (led by Jill Lu), and fundraising (led by Yuming Liu).

Rixin Li presented the budget to the board and requested \$9,800 from long term fund to support this big school event. The budget will be used to support awards, celebration & performance, custodian and other HS personnel, special journal, awards for the ACLS & Me contest, and teachers conferences, etc. The Parent Council's \$2,000 Chinese New Year celebration budget will be used to subsidize the dinner expenses. Rixin Li made a motion to approve this budget, Guoying Zuo seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously by the Board.

6. Discussions of the sponsorship to the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

It was discussed ACLS should continue this program to provide scholarships for the AB High School seniors. Two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded to the qualified seniors who will continue learning Chinese or Asian cultures in college. Yanni Gou made a motion, and Wei Li seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously by the Board.

7. Discussions of the sponsorship to the Memorial Library Foundation

ACLS donated to the Memorial Library Foundation in the amount of \$500 or \$1,000 per year for a few years. Last year, it was approved \$1,000 from the long term fund to support the Foundation with a split of \$500 for general usage and \$500 for Chinese books. Since we have the 10th Anniversary Celebration this year and also approved the donation to support Dr. Zhao's visit to Acton all board members felt we should skip the donation to the library this year. However, Guoying Zuo, as ACLS representative, will continue helping the Chinese book selections for the library.

8. ACLS website upgrading

Harry Chen has been leading the project and made significant progresses in the recent months. The target go-alive date for the new website is on Feb. 16, 2013, the 10th Anniversary celebration.

9. Parent council report

A disclaimer had been implemented for the seminar announcement a few years ago. Due to a glitch to the ACLS seminar account, the announcement started to be sent out from personal account since last year. Guoying Zuo went through old emails and found out that the disclaimer had been missing since that transaction. Guoying Zuo informed the board that the disclaimer will be added when the announcement is sent out for future announcement. In addition, Guoying Zuo is going to find out the seminar policy from previous seminar committee members. It is necessary to have a policy in place in order to ensure the seminars are beneficial to the community without commercial dispute.