

PRINCETON'S MAYOR LEMPERT VISITS



Mayor Lempert (center) with the YHIS 5th Grade Class October 16, 2015

YingHua International School: English-Chinese Immersion School of Princeton, whose American and foreign-born students learn to read, write and speak in two languages, hosted Mayor Liz Lempert on Friday, October 16th.

Fifth-grade students at this unique but fully accredited school are studying the concept of how to make positive, lasting change in the world, and they invited Mayor Lempert to discuss her role as mayor including the obstacles to making change and her successes.

Students in the small-sized class had prepared questions in advance to ask the mayor, and they learned, for example, that changes are initiated by people in the community who sometimes never see the ultimate result. But the changes do occur over years and sometimes decades and, as Mayor Lempert explained, “go[ing] to the meetings” to make the case for what needs to be done is the main way citizens can make change.

Mayor Lempert told the YingHua International School students of her work with the White House on a national initiative related to student success, and she relayed that a Youth Advisory board comprised of township high school students is an exciting and promising possibility for the township of Princeton to hear from its youth on a regular basis. Several YingHua students who are Princeton residents showed interest in the program, and she encouraged them to begin attending council meetings whenever they have something to share as a precursor to the Advisory. During her hour with the students, the issues raised included fund-raising, taxes, term limits and recycling. The latter was addressed in depth, as there is no current recycling pickup at YingHua International School, and Mayor Lempert gave information as to whom the students can write letters to, if they attempt to address the problem. All people can be change agents, as the students’ unit of study contends. The visit was a success and the students learned a lot about Mayor Lempert and how to make change in a democracy.