APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High)

Date and Time
Wednesday September 23, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Location
Zoom teleconference

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County ("DVLAC") welcomes your participation at its Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of DVLAC in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our schools. To assist you in speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

1. Teleconferencing will be held through Zoom. Join the Zoom Meeting at https://zoom.us/j/97255226958, Meeting ID: 972 5522 6958, or dial (669) 900-6833.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members online at https://dvrise.davincischools.org.
3. Audience members who wish may speak on any agenda items or under the general category of "Public Comments," which is time set aside for members of the audience to raise issues not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Non-English speakers who use a translator shall have six (6) minutes in which to address the Board.
4. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.
5. The chair will recognize such individuals who wish to speak on a specific agenda item at the appropriate time. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to adhere to the time limits set forth, and to not repeat remarks made by those who preceded them.

6. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members shall be available for public inspection at 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245, during Business Office operating hours. For more information call the CEO's office at 310-725-5800.

The agenda and documents in the agenda packet will be made available, if requested, in appropriate alternative formats to any person with a disability as required by the ADA, 42 USC section 12132, and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. To request a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, you must contact Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County (201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA) at 310-725-5800, ext. 1351 at least 48 hours before a regular meeting, and at least 12 hours before a special meeting. (Government Code § 54954.2(a)(1).)

Trustees Present
A. Montes-Rodriguez (remote), C. McCullough (remote), C. Taylor (remote), J. Morgan (remote), L. Jennings (remote), T. Johnstone (remote)

Trustees Absent
P. Escala

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
C. McCullough

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned
C. McCullough

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth (remote), Bernard Bella (remote), E'bow Morgan (remote), E. Whalen (remote), J. Hawn (remote), K. Croft (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Meika Nwaomah (remote), R. Robertson (remote), S. Ayala (remote), S. Warner (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Jennings called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday Sep 23, 2020 at 6:02 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

D. Public Comments

Meika Nwaomah commented that she was happy to see the new members who have joined the Board. She wants the RISE High students, families, and stakeholders to see the power of the Board to support them in rethinking education, and the impact that support has on their day-to-day experience.

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Ms. Morgan shared that she is happy to support the staff and is excited to see the work being done.
Ms. Montes-Rodriguez shared that she has visited the APCH site, and looks forward to looking for opportunities to engage with the students and families.
Mr. Taylor commented that he didn't know about school boards when he was young, and that he is happy to support the work and students.
Dr. McCullough reiterated the comments of the others.
Dr. Jennings spoke of being thankful for the antiracist training her group has done at Teach For America.
Dr. Johnstone echoed Dr. Jenning's comments, sharing that as the head of the Westchester Rotary club, that group is also discussing equity.

B. From the CEO

Dr. Wunder shared that he is grateful for the national light that is being cast on the events of the day.
He then gave an update on funding, saying that policy can sometimes be one-size-fits-all, and RISE High students have been unintentionally marginalized with regard to funding. He is working with partners on the possibility of a waiver for non-classroom-based schools. The cost of educating each RISE student is twice what the state funds. Dr. Wunder and the team are working with XQ on short-term funds, and XQ is reaching out to other partners for long-term sustainable funding. Ms. Montes-Rodriguez and Ms. Croft have led a team (XQ, Emerson Collective, Capitol Advisors, Chet Pipkin, APCH, etc.) working on other funding strategies. Dr. Wunder added that he and the team need time to organize and prepare.

C. From the Executive Director

Dr. Ring spoke about the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan, and the (new for charter schools) Single Plan for Student Achievement. Due to the pandemic, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the accompanying LCAP report has been suspended. The new requirement is to submit a Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP), which concerns gaps in learning, meaningful stakeholder engagement, the needs of unduplicated students, students with unique needs, and homeless students, among other issues.
An LCP Stakeholder Input meeting and a public hearing were held. In addition, a budget review for parents with a public hearing will be due to LACOE on December 15.

Dr. Ring also spoke about the SPSA (School Plan for Student Achievement) and the second part of the Consolidated Application which is due in February. There are multiple SPSA goals such as improved pupil outcomes, parental/stakeholder involvement and student engagement.

Dr. Ring added that the team is targeting students who are not engaged. Ms. Morgan asked about students with IEPs; Dr. Ring responded that psychological assessments are being outsourced. COVID transmission is a concern with face-to-face assessments. Discussion of internet access, attendance during the pandemic, staff concerns, and plans in accordance with L.A County Department of Public Health followed, with contributions by Ms. Croft, Dr. Hawn, and Dr. Ring. ADA requirements have not changed for non-classroom-based schools. Staff is aware of the need to strike a balance between student and staff needs.

A reopening recommendation with individualized appointments for student with ELL and Special Ed needs is being considered by leadership and will be outlined in the next Oct 21 meeting and in accordance with Department of Public Health guidelines.

D. RISE High Update

Mr. Erin Whalen presented the RISE update. RISE High students are required to be held to the same pre-pandemic academic progress and time count requirements. The pandemic-induced impacts on attendance (independent-study attendance is calculated by "time value of work completion" rather than seat time) are evident; for example, many more students have to work nearly full-time jobs, requiring RISE teachers to work varied hours to try to match student needs.

The staff employs tiered Interventions. The orientation and enrollment process is critical; students who have a strong orientation experience will come back to school. Strong virtual instructional coaching is occurring across all sites.

Mr. Whalen shared the RISE Pathways for Resilient Learning, saying Resource Specialist Tiffany Edwards is the lead teacher for Independent Studies (remediation in a flexible schedule) and the expedited California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE). Anthony Gay and Scott James, Behavior Interventionists, are providing a mentorship program, working closely with students who need increased executive functioning and accountability support and progress monitoring during the pandemic-induced closure.

RISE High has also deployed English Language Learning Coordinator and managers to support the 29 EL learners across the three sites.

E. Financial Update

Mr. Michael Amato covered the August Profit and Loss statement and balance sheet. A revised budget will be presented to the board at the October board meeting. RISE has no cash flow issues.

Regarding the XQ funding shown on the Dashboard, $4.37MM will be left in the XQ grant if current projections hold (taking $2.8MM instead of $1.5MM from the grant this year). The remaining grant funds will allow two more years of revenue past the 2020-21 school year, assuming no state funding issues. The grant is given in two payments per year, July 1 and January 1. Mr. Scott Warner added that LCFF funding is expected to go back to normal, and mentioned the "perfect storm" of the pandemic, LCFF revenue changes, ADA, among other things.

Ms. Morgan inquired if lower ADA has been factored into the finances. Mr. Amato responded yes, but reminded the board that the state is paying RISE based on last year's ADA because the State has classified RISE as a non-classroom-based school. Therefore, approximately 50 students at the newer site will not be funded in 2021 unless something changes. ADA is expected to return to normal levels. Discussion on ADA levels and ADA calculations ensued.

F. Facilities Update

Dr. Ring relayed that according to Mr. Bravo, all PPE, facilities, COVID compliance preparations, internal air quality and ventilation are under control.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the August 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

C. McCullough left.
T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 08-19-20.
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
Dr. McCullough left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Escala	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
C. McCullough	Absent

B. Approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2020 Special Board Meeting

C. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Special Board Meeting on 09-03-20.
A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.
These minutes will be re-presented for approval at a subsequent meeting, when the board members who were present at the Special meeting are in attendance.
The motion did not carry.

Roll Call

A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
L. Jennings	Abstain
T. Johnstone	Abstain
C. Taylor	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. McCullough	Absent
J. Morgan	Abstain

IV. Action Items

A. Accept August 2020 Check Transactions Per Management

T. Johnstone made a motion to accept the August 2020 Check Transactions per Management.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Taylor	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye

B. Approve Agreement to Provide Practicum Experience for California Baptist University's Master of Social Work Program

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the Agreement to Provide Practicum Experience for California Baptist University's Master of Social Work Program.
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Escala	Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye

C. Approve Agreement between Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative (SEWI) and Da Vinci RISE High

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the Agreement between Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative and Da Vinci RISE High.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. McCullough	Absent

D. Approve Single Plan for Student Achievement for Da Vinci RISE High

Dr. Johnstone asked why enrollment data percentages do not total 100. SPSA overall enrollment data did not correctly add up to 100%; a review of the data appears to be needed.

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez inquired about the page 21 racial breakdown in enrollment numbers and the disparity between the current year and the previous year's numbers of African American, Latino, and White students.

Item was tabled until the next meeting, when staff will address the questions and re-present the plan for approval.

E. Approve the Local Continuity and Attendance Plan for Da Vinci RISE High

C. McCullough arrived.
T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for Da Vinci RISE High.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.
Dr. McCullough returned to the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Dr. Johnstone pointed out that the title of this item is incorrect; the proper name is "Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan."
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye

F. Ratify Employment Decisions - Special Assignment for Principal

T. Johnstone made a motion to ratify Employment Decision - Special Assignment for Principal.
A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. Taylor	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye

G. Ratify Employment Decision - Contract for Principal

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to ratify Employment Decision - Contract for Principal.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye

H.

Approve Report of Alternative Authorization of Teacher Assignments

Ms. Morgan asked for comment from Dr. Jennifer Hawn, who shared that alternative schools are permitted to have teachers with specialized training to teach out of assignment. This year, LACOE asked for board approval. Dr. Johnstone echoed Dr. Hawn's comments, saying that this is in line with what occurs in public schools. Dr. Ring added that it is a reminder to administration that the teachers receive necessary support.
J. Morgan made a motion to approve Report of Alternative Authorization of Teacher Assignments.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Taylor made a motion to adjourn.
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Taylor	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth