APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools SPECIAL Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday September 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Da Vinci Schools ("DV") 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 DV 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 conducted through Zoom. Join Zoom meeting at https://zoom.us/j/95625147366, Meeting ID: 956 2514 7366, or dial (669) 900-6833.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members on the Da Vinci Schools website at www.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. Please contact 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 Alison Wohlwerth at 310-725-5800 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
B. Meath (remote), D. Boston (remote), D. Brann (remote), K. Latuner (remote)

Trustees Absent
J. Morgan

Guests Present
A. Daramola (remote), A. Johnson (remote), A. Wohlwerth (remote), C. Levenson (remote), E. D'Souza (remote), J. Hawn (remote), K. Croft (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Rainey (remote), M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote), S. Wallis (remote), V. Bravo (remote), V. Rodriguez (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Brann called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday Sep 2, 2020 at 6:01 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Brann reversed the order of the items and put the Consent agenda item first, to be followed by the Disucssion of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Dr. Brann also noted that he would offer time for public Input on the Level Increases first, then an additional time for public comment before the diversity discussion.
K. Latuner made a motion to approve the agenda as revised.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call
B. Meath Aye
D. Boston Aye

Roll Call

D. Brann Aye
J. Morgan Absent
K. Latuner Aye

D. Public Comments

Ms. Janee Gerard gave a comment on transparency around faculty compensation and the equity of step and column levels. Dr. Brann asked Ms. Gerard for her written comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Reinstatement of Level Increases for Certificated and Classified Staff

Dr. Brann spoke of the freeze on pay level increases in May, due to financial uncertainty at the start of the pandemic. Recent financial adjustments would allow the board to reinstate the pay level increases. Mr. Meath commented that although the situation is not great, it is not as bleak as previously feared, and that he supports reinstating the increases.

The increases would total be a $550-$570K expense.
B. Meath made a motion to approve.
D. Boston seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

K. Latuner Aye
D. Brann Aye
D. Boston Aye
B. Meath Aye
J. Morgan Absent

Dr. Wunder thanked the board for their stewardship.

III. Discussion

A. Update on the Da Vinci Schools Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Antiracism Professional Development Planning

Dr. Brann offered the opportunity for public comments on this topic; there being none, Dr. Wunder began the update.

Dr. Wunder spoke of Da Vinci's work in diversity, equity, and inclusion, saying there is much yet to do and much to acknowledge has already been accomplished.

Summer professional development meetings for staff input, as well as meetings of the DEI/Anti-racism committee (giving input on the solidarity commitment, student handbook

revisions and Dehumanizing Language policy all with legal guidance), and ongoing staff Chats with Matt are all evidence of work done and continuing. One request was for Da Vinci Schools to give money to certain causes to show solidarity with the community. Da Vinci is a non-profit organization and so cannot legally donate funds directly, but Da Vinci leadership have pursued grants for targeted philanthropic giving by the Da Vinci Schools Fund.

Dr. Wunder also mentioned further anti-racism professional development work, such as the organization-wide reading of *How to be an Antiracist* being led by Dr. Allegra Johnson, and the UCLA Center X professional development spearheaded by Ms. Veronica Rodriguez.

The Central Office team is developing metrics and tools to measure progress and success in this area. Examining grading with an equity lens is ongoing, and equity/access professional development is scheduled for October and will be ongoing. Organization-wide forums for staff, students, and parents are scheduled.

Michelle Rainey, Connect K-8, Connect High School and DVX principal and parent, spoke of her commitment to Da Vinci's diverse-by-design model, which while not perfect, is remarkable. She spoke of the organization's belief that shame works against social justice and progress, and the beliefs in the power of social emotional learning for students and adults, problem solving through open dialogue, and real-world and project-based learning which are proven social justice strategies. She is confident Da Vinci will continue its work to provide equitable educational opportunities to students.

Erin D'Souza, principal of Da Vinci Communications, spoke of her commitment to the collaborative work done at Da Vinci Schools. The collaborative work being done by stakeholders to solve complex problems may be messy and slower than one would wish, but she is confident that the work will reflect the efforts of the team. She is also certain that the organization is collectively examining how institutional racism influences practices, policies, and curriculum, and is committed to ensuring that the work is a true commitment rather than a reflection of the times or of pressure to react.

Veronica Rodriguez, principal of Da Vinci Design, spoke of the urgency to commit to the ABAR (Anti-Bias, Anti-Racist) work. As a school leader, she is committed to providing a space for students to discuss the work, and is proud of the Da Vinci team's commitment, no matter how hard or uncomfortable the work. She noted the need to take the time to reflect and plan in order to effect long-term change; time and space is necessary to accept our own positional and implicit biases in order to fully understand our role in perpetuating systemic racism.

Steve Wallis, principal of Da Vinci Science and parent, commented that at Da Vinci's inception, the mission was to create schools where each student is known and valued for themselves and their experiences. He is proud of the dedicated teachers and staff who

know that their work is never done, but who are always seeking to grow, including the work for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He is grateful for the the support and leadership of the board and Matt Wunder in giving the staff that space to grow.

Dr. Wunder wrapped up the presentation by pledging his commitment and the organization's commitment that this will be a marathon and not a sprint, the continuation of a long-standing commitment and targeted approach.

Dr. Allegra Johnson added that she is encouraged by the overwhelming spirit of commitment of the faculty and leaders that this work will be sustained, and is looking forward to the conversations about equitable, responsible grading practices and pedagogies, and to the Central Office forums that will be conducted for staff, students, and families to reflect on practices.
Dr. Brann offered the opportunity for further public comments.

Mr. Boston thanked the staff for their passion and intention to stay with the work and evaluating what everyone brings to the table in terms of intentions, biases, and challenging themselves to do better.

Mr. Meath thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments, saying that he shares Mr. Boston's and Dr. Wunders observations that this is not a sprint but a marathon. He asked Dr. Wunder how the board will be receiving periodic updates. Dr. Wunder responded that the board may be given summaries of notes as the work is done, or when the board requests, or quarterly.

Dr. Brann inquired about the Chats with Matt. Dr. Wunder spoke of the monthly meetings that have been set up for each site. At RISE High, Dr. Ring or Ms. Croft may be the one heading the chats. He spoke of the fact that communication and coordination among school sites is a challenge.

Dr. Brann commented that he would like to see the student demographics for the 2020-21 school year. Dr. Wunder commented that Da Vinci reflects the demographics of California, saying that the demographics are not the same at each school site. He is happy to share more information with the board in the future.

Dr. Wunder acknowledged Ms. Kari Croft for her work on diversity and inclusion at RISE.

IV. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

None held.

V. Closing Items

A.

Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Not necessary

B. Adjourn Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to adjourn.
K. Latuner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Boston	Aye
D. Brann	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
B. Meath	Aye
K. Latuner	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth