APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Special Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday September 3, 2020 at 8:00 AM

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/91421389579, Meeting ID: 914 2138 9579, 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), P. Escala (remote)

Trustees Absent
J. Morgan, L. Jennings, T. Johnstone

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth (remote), E. Whalen (remote), J. Hawn (remote), K. Croft (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

P. Escala called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Thursday Sep 3, 2020 at 8:05 AM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D.

Public Comments

None

II. Discussion

A. From the Board

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez thanked Dr. Wunder for the communications he and his office have put out regarding the start of school.

Mr. Escala concurred.

B. From the CEO

Dr. Wunder shared that staff recommends without reservation that the pay level increases be reinstated. In the spring, the State's 10% LCFF reduction would have significantly impacted the budget, therefore the Board froze the increases. The State legislature passed a non-classroom-based enrollment growth cap, meaning that RISE High will not collect funds for the New Earth students. Regardless of what so many in the education world think, RISE High is not a virtual school. Dr. Wunder believes that the team will be able to convince those in power that it is a matter of equity and obtain a waiver from the State. The State and Federal funding provides about $12K per RISE High student, although it costs double that to provide all the services the students need. Dr. Wunder also believes the philanthropic world will continue to support RISE High.

The cost for level increases is approximately $70K.

C. From the Executive Director

Dr. Ring commented that the RISE staff is innovative, creative, and hard working, and thanked both staff and leadership for their ability to understand the student population.

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez commented that she wants to keep the priority on the waiver and government funding, and that the County can advocate for RISE High to ensure better articulation of the work being done to support RISE students. She would also like to prioritize philanthropic support and would like the board kept updated on both the waiver and philanthropic support issues.

D. Discussion of Financial Impact

Mr. Amato noted that an enrollment of 255 students factored into budget planning, and a conservative $40K bottom line was taken with the State's original LCFF reduction (and the pay level increase freeze among other measures) in mind. Based on the State's new rules, and a 176 enrollment (last year's enrollment, due to the enrollment cap) the LCFF revenue is $1.5MM rather than the $2.275MM originally planned. The team will request $835K over the originally planned $2MM from the XQ funds. A decrease in the CMO fee

(which is 10% of LCFF revenue) that RISE pays Da Vinci will help to offset the difference. By the end of the year, $5.5MM will have been taken from the XQ total $10MM five year grant, assuming that other philanthropic funds are not found. All told, an anticipated surplus of $130K will be put into reserves.

Mr. Escala noted that from his perspective, there is risk, but it is manageable, and reinstating the level increases is prudent to support the staff who daily do the work for students.

Mr. Taylor asked Dr. Wunder about XQ's willingness to help further with the funding. Dr. Wunder shared that he and the team are in communication with XQ and its other divisions to learn more about what they need and want. He believes that in addition to XQ, there are other organizations that particularly want to serve RISE High's students. Ms. Montes-Rodriguez has pointed the team to a successful grant application for LAUSD that could be used as a model in approaching the County. Dr. Wunder has hope and sees opportunity, although he knows there are no guarantees.

III. Action Items

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

P. Escala made a motion to approve Reinstatement of Pay Level Increases for Certificated and Classified Staff.
A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
P. Escala	Aye

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Absent
L. Jennings	Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth