APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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/96735558489, Meeting ID: 967 3555 8489, 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
C. McCullough (remote), C. Taylor (remote), J. Morgan (remote), L. Jennings (remote), T. Johnstone (remote)

Trustees Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez, P. Escala

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth (remote), E. Whalen (remote), Edith Funes, J. Hawn (remote), Kevin Hunley (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Meika Nwaomah (remote), Naomi Lara (remote), Noemi Villaseñor (remote), R. Robertson (remote), Sabrina Ayala (remote), V. Bravo (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 Oct 21, 2020 at 6:02 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

Roll Call

A. Montes-Rodriguez	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye

D. Public Comments

None

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Johnstone shared his appreciation for the meeting and its participants.

Dr. Jennings shared that she appreciated seeing Dr. McCullough and Ms. Funes. She also shared that the Teach for America Los Angeles 30th Anniversary event happened virtually, and also the exciting news that RISE High was selected to participate in the Youth Rising Conference with host Tan France.

B. From the CEO

Dr. Wunder shared that there is a legislative fix for non-classroom based school funding potentially being considered, which would be wonderful for RISE High.

C. From the Executive Director

Dr. Ring shared that a Student Board Member proposal was presented by Da Vinci Science student Carisma de Anda to the Da Vinci Schools Board. Ms. Morgan and Dr. Ring felt that the DVLAC Board should also be given the opportunity to have student board members. Ms. Naomi Lara, RISE High teacher, will work with Carisma. After the RISE High team speaks with Carisma, Dr. Ring would like to bring the proposal to the board.

Ms. Morgan added that the presentation was very well received, although it has not been voted on by the Da Vinci Schools Board yet. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to give input. A specific DVLAC student board member proposal will be presented in November.

Dr. Ring also commented on the updated reopening plan, saying that the plans have been changing with changes in public health guidelines. She shared that some students need one-on-one assistance such that a RISE "cohort" of students may end up being one or two students and a teacher, as long as that falls within the Department of Public Health guidelines. Dr. Ring noted that staff is prepared, and recommends the October 26, 2020 start date for special education and English Language Learner assessments.

D. RISE High Update

Mr. Whalen introduced new Assistant Principal Ms. Edith Funes and English Language Coordinator Noemi Villasenor.

Data & Demographics update:
Mr. Whalen shared that RISE High enrollment grew slightly in September. 49% of all RISE students are current and former foster, probation, or homeless students. Brief discussion on RISE High's focus on serving students in those categories and the overlap of students in various categories.
23% IEPs, 13% EL. RISE is being strategic with delivering services.

The Board requested a more granular breakdown of the data in the following month's update.

Dr. Wunder pointed out the fact that in part, the student demographics are delineated in order to fulfill charter requirements for authorizer LACOE.

Mr. Whalen pointed out that mentorship, reaching out to students, ADA is at 47.48%. Faculty and staff are working hard to serve students. Hawthorne site was approved for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Ms. Edith Funes, new RISE High Assistant Principal at A Place Called Home. She has been a teacher, instructional coach, assistant principal and principal in Inglewood, Watts, and South Central L.A. She appreciates the opportunity to work with RISE students and looks forward to expanding equity and access to learning, project-based learning experiences and strengthening the partnership with APCH. Dr. Jennings and Dr. McCullough expressed their appreciation for Ms. Funes.

Mr. Whalen spoke of quarterly NWEA Map testing for RISE students. The team is digging into the assessment data. Students largely took the tests in their home environments, which is challenging when compared to an in-class setting.

68 students enrolled in the week-long Fall Intersession, earning a total of 65 credits in math, science, English, and World of Work courses. 10 RISE credits equal one course. This was the first online intersession, so numbers of participants was encouraging.

Ms. Noemi Villaseñor, the EL Coordinator, presented the work being done with English Language Learners. The goal is strong literacy skills, with performance indicators of teacher, students, and stakeholder input. The ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessment), was cancelled due to the pandemic, so instead, a summative online assessment was used. 13 students have taken this summative assessment online. The goal is to have students reclassified as proficient (at levels 3 and 4). Proficiency levels are: Emerging (beginner/lower intermediate), Expanding (intermediate/upper intermediate, and Bridging (advanced/native speaker). Weekly, monthly, and quarterly support and direct instruction are offered in accordance with the levels.

Mr. Whalen spoke of tracking English Language Development progress, looking at previous ELPAC scores, GPA, ELD focus standards, student profile goals, etc.

Ms. Villaseñor shared the ELD Focus Area Calendar, which is revised based on data results, not the calendar year. EL Support can also be provided in one-hour weekly workshops by teachers who speak the student's native language to help students become more active, confident, bilingual speakers.

Mr. Taylor shared that Ms. Villaseñor's teaching strategies are the same as best practices used in industry, and commended Ms. Villaseñor for her work.

E. Financial Update

Mr. Amato shared the DVLAC September balance sheet, saying RISE High's cash position remains healthy. Ms. Ayala commented that 60 days' cash on hand is ideal for non-profit organizations, with a 30 day minimum.

Mr. Amato shared the Profit & Loss sheet, saying that updated projections for the year will be shared soon, as the deadline to send the First Interim report to LACOE is December 9, 2020.

In September 2018, RISE High became an independent non-profit organization known as Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County. The Federal tax form 990, and the State form are required annually for such organizations. The 2019 non-profit tax return was prepared pro bono by Wayland & Vukadinovich, saving about $800. Mr. Amato recently discovered that the first tax return (for the year ending June 30, 2019) was not filed on time. The 2019-20 year's tax return will be audited in November, and will be filed on time in December.

Wayland & Vukadinovich will be preparing the return every year in the future, and Mr. Amato is aware and keeping track. There is a high probability that any late penalty to be forgiven; the board will be kept informed.

F. Facilities Update

Mr. Bravo spoke of the Department of Public Health visits that will occur at each of the RISE High sites in the next two weeks. The Da Vinci visit was held earlier in the day, and went very well, which bodes well for the RISE High visits. School Nurse Dr. Emily Green and Mr. Glenn Noya, Lead Security Officer, helped to answer the DPH team's questions.

A Da Vinci Schools Indoor Air Quality Initiative has been created as an extension of the COVID protocols to improve air quality long term across all sites. Compliance items due to LACOE are being executed for the New Earth site.

The search for a new athletic director is underway; Da Vinci RISE High students, like all Da Vinci students, are eligible to try out for sports, although currently conditioning and possibly try outs will be held remotely.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the September 23, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the amended minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 09-23-20.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
Brief discussion ensued regarding Dr. McCullough's leaving the September 23 meeting early and then returning, and the way that was noted in the minutes. Staff will correct the timing of the notations. The minutes were approved with the understanding that the notations would be corrected.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

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

Item tabled due to lack of enough members who were present at the September 3, 2020 meeting to approve the minutes.

IV. Action Items

A. Accept September 2020 Check Transactions Per Management

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

B.

Approve Da Vinci RISE High Tax Return and Filing

J. Morgan made a motion to approve.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve and Adopt Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Document Retention/Destruction Policy

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve and Adopt Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Whistle-blower Policy

C. Taylor made a motion to approve.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Revised Memorandum of Understanding between Da Vinci RISE High and A Place Called Home

C. McCullough made a motion to approve Revised Memorandum of Understanding between Da Vinci RISE High and A Place Called Home.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Updated Da Vinci RISE High October 2020 Reopening Plan

C. Taylor made a motion to approve Updated Da Vinci RISE High October 2020 Reopening Plan.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
Brief discussion ensued regarding two typographical errors and the fact that the document should specify the October 26, 2020 start date.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Taylor made a motion to approve Updated Da Vinci RISE High October 2020 Reopening Plan.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
Brief discussion: 2 typographical errors, document should list October 26, 2020 date.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approve Amended School Plan for Student Achievement for Da Vinci RISE High

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
Dr. Ring pointed out that the previous report was missing data, and the report presented here has been corrected.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

H. Approve Resolution to Tentatively Adopt a Conflict of Interest Code

C. McCullough made a motion to approve.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

I. Approve Resolution to Adopt Da Vinci RISE High-New Earth Educational Program Policy

C. Taylor made a motion to approve.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

V. Closed Session

A.

Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation

Entered at 7:42 p.m.

VI. Closing Items

A. Reconvene to Public Session and Closed Session Reporting

The Board reconvened at 7:59 p.m.
Dr. Jennings shared that the board was approving the September 17, 2020 Final Settlement Agreement and Release between Parent and Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County in Student v. Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County, Special Education Due Process, OAH Case No. 2020080117, pursuant to which Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County agrees to fund and provide educational services to the student and the student's parent agrees to release claims against Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County, in exchange for educational services as specified in the Agreement.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Adjourn Meeting

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

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Absent
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 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Wohlwerth