APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Tuesday November 17, 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/97397251234 Meeting ID: 973 9725 1234, 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), L. Jennings (remote)

Trustees Absent
J. Morgan, P. Escala, T. Johnstone

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth (remote), E. Whalen (remote), J. Hawn (remote), Kevin Hunley (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Meika Nwaomah (remote), R. Robertson (remote), S. 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 Tuesday Nov 17, 2020 at 6:03 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

A. Montes-Rodriguez Aye

D. Public Comments

None

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Jennings wished everyone a restful holiday.

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez asked for an update on how the RISE team is doing considering the COVID-19 surge in L.A. County, and thanked the RISE team for the work they're doing.

B. From the CEO

Dr. Wunder thanked Dr. Ring, Mr. Whalen, Dr. Robertson, and Ms. Nwaomah for their leadership and exceptional work in challenging times.

Dr. Wunder also acknowledged Mr. Amato's work, saying that he has been doing the work of a Chief Financial Officer for months. Dr. Wunder also thanked Ms. Sabrina Ayala for recruiting Mr. Amato and getting him up to speed in the position.

C. From the Executive Director

Dr. Ring spoke of the amazing RISE staff and working with the students who are facing more challenges in the pandemic.

She shared that 16 special education and/or English Language Learner students across the RISE sites have been served with one-on-one assessments. The team will continue to review the needs of their student population, and perhaps in January (if allowed under LADPH guidelines) will bring back to the Board a recommendation around serving small cohorts.

Dr. Ring also shared an update for staffing at RISE. The RISE administration is seeking a combination Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator. The cost of the position has been included in the budget for the next quarter. In addition, a job description for a Coordinator of Special Education/School Psychologist position is in development and recruiting will begin in 2021 in hopes of filling the position with a June start date. The position will be included in the projected budget for 2021-21. The consultant who had been the part-time Special Education Coordinator has left to head Wiseburn's Special Education program. A presentation on the RISE High Special Education department will be given to the Board in January.

D.

RISE High Update

Mr. Whalen shared that there are a total of 227 students across RISE sites.
Mr. Whalen shared a breakdown of the number of foster youth, probationary youth, housing unstable (which changes weekly), and parenting youth across the RISE sites.

Mr. Taylor asked for clarification on the definition of "housing unstable." Mr. Whalen responded that students who are moving from relative to relative (couch hopping), or living under a single roof with multiple families, often during their transition out of foster care, are considered "housing unstable."

Mr. Whalen commented that RISE High's New Earth and APCH partners have begun talking to each other to share resources, which benefits the Hawthorne site as well.

Attendance in October is 49.71%.
76 Free and Reduced Lunch applications have been submitted between APCH and New Earth campuses.
Attendance and Student Engagement strategies have been launched. APCH Assistant Principal Ms. Funes and Attendance & Enrollment Coordinator Mr. Navarro have worked together to create solutions. If student attendance increases 1% in the first week, the students will be rewarded with an online game with staff. The staff have been using multiple communication tools to inform the families and students about the importance of logging in.

Mr. Whalen shared the RISE High School Committees, which are staff teams for Senior Support, Attendance & Engagement, Professional Development, Staff Culture & Support, and Student Culture & Support.

There are several students projected to graduate in December: two at APCH, four at Hawthorne, and one at New Earth.

The first School Site Council meeting was held on November 13, including co-location partners, students, parents/stakeholders, and staff/faculty.

New Earth update:
100% of students receive case management services. All students are provided with New Earth programming, and work world. 20 RISE student families receive groceries at New Earth's weekly market. Students have also signed up for New Earth's new mentor program.

APCH update:
APCH's Education Services program supports RISE students needing a flexible schedule.
There is a LIFE Mentoring Program to support students.

34 students are receiving support through APCH programs and services.
Family Resource Depot is supporting 19 students with weekly food delivery, and more than 10 students will be participating in the Family to Family program receiving gifts during the winter holidays.

Onsite Assessment update:
18 students have been served in onsite assessments. Safety protocols have been deployed in collaboration with co-location partners. Department of Public Health has visited the sites. Mr. Whalen thanked Dr. Ring, Dr. Emily Green, and Mr. Bravo for their work on safety protocols and assessments.

Student-led Conferences will be held February 1 through 8, 2021. The students present their learning: their strengths, their challenges, how they are a tactful collaborator and effective communicator, and showing evidence of their learning and growth. Dr. Robertson added that students are already preparing for the SLCs by working on their Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) with their advisors.

The RISE teachers and New Earth and APCH partners are collaborating to align standards, competencies and performance tasks with RISE High's credit maps in order to allow partner programming to give students credits, which is especially important for seniors.

A Q3 interdisciplinary project-based learning project is being developed on the topic of misinformation, bias, and social media responsibility.

Two RISE English language learners are set for reclassification.
The first English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is being created. Three parents have volunteered thus far. The addition of more Spanish-speaking staff has benefited English language learners.

E. Financial Update

Mr. Amato gave the financial update, covering the adopted versus revised budgets.

Due to the State's hold harmless rule, RISE High will realize less state LCFF revenue than anticipated on the adopted budget. LCFF revenue will be $1.5MM
Just over $3MM will be taken from the XQ grant funds to help make up the variance, leaving just over $4.2MM remaining in the grant.

Expenses are higher than the original projected budget, due to staff compensation increases and additional staff positions. Additional technology purchases are covered by Federal funds. Adjustments have also been made due to current, additional knowledge. LCFF revenue decreases are offset by a reduced CMO fee.

Mr. Amato shared that the goal is to put 3% into reserves. If a $140K surplus can be achieved, just under $760K will end up in reserves. Coupled with the XQ funding, just under $5MM will be available for the future. The Weingart funds are not included in this, as they are meant to be used for expanding or improving RISE High facilities, not general operations.

The revised budget will be submitted to LACOE on December 9, 2020. Dr. Ring shared that a $20K grant may come through in the New Year. Dr. Ring will have an update at the next meeting.

Dr. Wunder commented on state revenues being up significantly over projections. Ms. Ayala spoke of state revenue being driven by property tax revenue and capital gains. The stock market overall is ending higher than projected. The COVID-19 case surge will have an impact; it is just not certain what the impact will be. School finance teams follow California's revenue in an attempt to predict the amount of revenue public schools will receive.

F. Facilities Update

Mr. Bravo shared that on-site special education assessments have been going well. Stricter DPH guidelines will be sent out if COVID cases surge.

Headsets for students have all arrived and are being distributed.
Athletics are all virtual/online with conditioning by coaches. CIF communications indicate no green light for in-person sports at this time.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

Item tabled due to lack of a quorum of those in attendance at the September 3, 2020 meeting.

B. Approve Minutes from the October 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Item tabled due to lack of a quorum of those in attendance at the October 21, 2020 meeting.

C. Approve Minutes of the November 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting

Item tabled due to lack of a quorum of those in attendance at the November 4, 2020 meeting.

IV. Action Items

A.

Accept October 2020 Check Transactions Per Management

C. Taylor made a motion to accept the October 2020 check transactions.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Term Extension of Board Member Paul Escala to November 28, 2023

C. Taylor made a motion to approve the term extension of Paul Escala to November 28, 2023.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

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

Roll Call

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth