APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Wednesday January 27, 2021 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/95459034471 , Meeting ID: 954 5903 4471, 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
None

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth (remote), Anthony Pur (remote), Carla McCullough (remote), E. Funes (remote), E. Salango (remote), E. Whalen (remote), Elaine Salango (remote), J. Hawn (remote), Kevin Gordon (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Meika Nwaomah (remote), Naomi Lara (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 Wednesday Jan 27, 2021 at 6:01 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
Dr. Jennings proposed an amendment to the agenda, moving the presentation of Mr. Kevin Gordon, President of Capitol Advisors Group, to take place after approval of agenda.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
J. Morgan	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye

Roll Call

C. Taylor	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Absent

D. Presentation: President of Capitol Advisors Group - School Funding

Dr. Wunder introduced Mr. Kevin Gordon, President of the Capitol Advisors Group. Mr. Gordon provides legislative level support to RISE. He is instrumental to Da Vinci schools supporting initiatives and providing timely information regarding financials and budget.

Mr. Gordon presented an overview of the treatment of ADA and enrollment growth, reviewed the independent audit guide for LEA's in relation to independent study guides, as well as the mechanics of the budget.

Mr. Gordon shared information regarding non-seat based instruction versus seat-based instructional programs. He reflected on the potential to change the mindset and definitions currently in place due to the growth in educational technology and optimizing on this opportunity in line with in-person instruction.

Mr. Gordon reviewed the mechanics of the budget and reported that the overall revenue looks good, with four issues to consider. First is the cost of living increase on the local control funding formula, second Prop 98, third repealing supplemental payments, and lastly, payment of deferrals.

Dr. Wunder noted that RISE is overachieving in serving at-risk youth through a non-seat based model, often considered underachieving by others who view seat-based learning vital. He concluded by thanking Mr. Gordon for advocating for RISE students.

Mr. Gordon commented on RISE's unique story and the value of sharing it to incentive a finance model that can be replicated for similar programs yielding positive results.
A. Montes-Rodriguez joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

E. Public Comments

Meika Nwamoah addressed the Board and expressed gratitude for the holiday donations.

Naomi Lara commented on her shared gratitude to the Board for their notes and holiday donations. She requested more information about the efforts that Mr. Kevin Gordon referred to in sharing the story of RISE, its characteristics, and student needs with legislators.

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A.

From the Board

Dr. Johnstone wished everyone a happy New Year.

Ms. Morgan commented on her 1-1 time with Principal Erin Whalen. She shared her appreciation for his time and was reminded of RISE's impact and the amazing work happening. Ms. Morgan also thanked Dr. Ring for the RISE sweatshirt.

Dr. Jennings also shared her gratitude and wished everyone a happy New Year. She thanked the RISE team for all of their work and ongoing commitment to RISE and our students.

Dr. Jennings shared an update on the open board member seat in which they are continuing to hold on, and not yet moving into recruitment at this time. She asked Board members to review their calendars for the upcoming Board meeting dates to ensure quorum.

Dr. Jennings also welcomed and introduced Elaine Salango, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director.

Mr. Taylor and Dr. McCullough requested a review of the dates for upcoming Board meetings.

B. From the CEO

C. From the Executive Director

Dr. Ring identified guidance from the LA County Department of Public Health, California Department of Public Health, California Department of Education, and Governor Newsom's proposed Safe School Plan as it pertains to reopening.

Governor Newsom has canceled the regional stay at home order and returned all counties to color-coded tiers, with Los Angeles county currently in the purple, more restrictive tier. Due to drops in hospitalizations and transmissions, things appear promising as we look to drop down into the red tier, which allows for school openings.

The COVID compliance team at Da Vinci is following the required protocol and is diligent in adhering to safety precautions. The administration recommends continuing to postpone 1-on-1 appointments in February. RISE will continue to support students with learning continuity needs through STAC meetings, student success meetings, IEP's and 504's plans. Staff continue their attendance outreach and intervention planning with students to increase their ability to engage in school during this hybrid world of asynchronous and synchronous learning.

Dr. Ring addressed the Safe Schools for All Plan and briefly reviewed proposed funding, safety and mitigation, oversight and assistance, and transparency and accountability outlined in the document.

Dr. Ring and Mr. Whalen registered RISE for the new state dashboard, which collects data and tracks supports and needs for reopening plans.

Dr. Ring displayed three year ADA data and discussed RISE's tiered approach to support students' engagement.

Mr. Taylor asked if the drop in attendance for the 2019-20 school year is due to COVID. Dr. Ring confirmed that the decline in attendance is due to expected COVID closures and shared that in the month before closing, ADA was up about 7% from the prior year.

Dr. Jennings also noted the increase in ADA from the prior year before school closure.

Dr. Ring identified and attributed the stabilization of the past five months of the 20-21 year to RISE staff efforts in engaging students. She is hopeful that as students return to in-person learning, we will resume ADA to prior years.

D. RISE High Update

Mr. Whalen wished the board a happy New Year.

December data: Enrollment has increased, currently serving 224 students, 45.5% of whom are opportunity youth; 93 Free and Reduced Lunch forms were submitted between APCH and New Earth sites. Staff is working on the Community Eligibility Provision for the 20-21 school year for all three sites.

Attendance and student engagement project update: The staff is determined to creatively and consistently engage students to provide resources as needed. The team is focused on reviewing data, stakeholder outreach, and holding weekly meetings to review progress, set goals, and identify interventions/strategies. Mr. Whalen also discussed the tiered responses for attendance outreach.

Shared leadership update: Mr. Whalen welcomed the newly elected officers from School Site Council and the English Learner Advisory Committee. He briefly reviewed topics of discussion for upcoming meetings.

Professional development and data review: Staff attended a 5-day professional development series with priority-aligned sessions to ensure staff support in continuing the long-term campus closure. The team also extensively reviewed data to observe and discern trends to streamline services.

New Earth partnership update: Students received donations at the Christmas holiday event hosted in partnership with Nourish LA. Mr. Whalen also reviewed current and upcoming student supports, such as the Career Center launching mid-February and housing support through S.P.Y.

APCH partnership update: Students received donations at the Family to Family Holiday Giving event in December. APCH offers its first credit-bearing class for students, and case managers at APCH and RISE continue to collaborate to provide additional support to students.

College and career and senior supports are being provided through weekly workshops assisting students with job applications, colleges, FAFAS and scholarship applications, and vocational programming. Students are also able to track their credits to ensure academic goals towards graduation requirements are met.

Mr. Whalen discussed the eligibility status for graduation and reported that approximately 30 students will qualify for graduation on June 2021. He also congratulated December 2020 graduates.

E. Financial Update

Mr. Amato provided updated information regarding the late filing of the 2018-19 tax return. The IRS proposed a penalty of $10,000, and DVLAC has a written request to the IRS for penalty forgiveness. Mr. Amato shared that the tax board is forgiving to first time offenders and new organizations. Forgiveness looks promising as the 2018-19 filing was the first year RISE High School filed as an independent organization: DVLAC. Updates on the matter will be timely.

Mr. Amato also gave an update regarding the fiscal year 19-20 annual audit. As it is taking longer than expected, it will be shared at the next Board meeting. Everything went well, and the auditors reported no issues, yet did propose one change to the 2019-20 results. In the year prior, RISE reported an income of $98,000, which resulted from LCFF funding coming in late and not knowing what the full amount would be. The auditor proposed to show the results of moving that $98,000 in LCFF, which applies to two years ago as revenue for that year, and adjusting the revenue for this year.

Mr. Amato reviewed the December balance sheet summary. He discussed the cash balance, revenue inflows, and expense outflows. Mr. Amato commented that the inflow revenue in December is slowed due to less state revenue and that these results are as expected. He also commented on the hold harmless rule in regards to how RISE is getting paid for ADA from the prior year, not actual enrollment for this year. XQ funding is supporting operations in December, and payment is expected in January. The current deficit is a result of the timing of XQ funding, state funding, and expenses.

F.

Facilities Update

Mr. Bravo highlighted a recent visit to the Richstone Family Center facility with Roger Van Remmen as a potential partnership for RISE Hawthorne for the 2021 school year. He also shared planning information regarding relocating the current New Earth Culver City facility to the Washington Complex in Los Angeles. More information will be shared in the upcoming months.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 12-08-20.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve the Minutes from the Special December 17, 2020 Special Board Meeting

C. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special December 17, 2020 Special Board Meeting Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Special Board Meeting (RISE High) on 12-17-20.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Action Items

A. Accept December 2020 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

J. Morgan made a motion to accept December 2020 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

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

B. Approve 2019-2020 School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve 2019-2020 School Accountability Report Card (SARC).
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

C. Approve 2020-21 Da Vinci RISE High Comprehensive School Safety Plan

C. Taylor made a motion to approve the amended 2020-21 Da Vinci RISE High Comprehensive School Safety Plan.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
Comment: Dr. Johnstone commended the plan and moved to approve the Comprehensive School Safety Plan as amended with minor, non-substantive punctuation corrections.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

V. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code 54957(b)) [Executive Director]
Closed session was entered at 7:45 p.m.

VI. Closing Items

A. Reconvene to Public Session

The Board reconvened for Public Session at 8:42 p.m.
Dr. Jennings reported that no action was taken.

B. Adjourn Meeting

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

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Salango