APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Wednesday July 28, 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/97619039842 Meeting ID: 976 1903 9842, 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), T. Johnstone (remote)

Trustees Absent
J. Morgan

Guests Present
Chris Howell (remote), E. Funes (remote), E. Salango (remote), E. Whalen (remote), J. Hawn (remote), Kari Croft (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Denniston (remote), M. Wunder (remote), R. Robertson (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 Jul 28, 2021 at 6:02 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll Call

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

D. Public Comments

None.

II. Special Board Action

A. Approve Term Renewal for Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Member Chris Taylor

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve Term Renewal for Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Member Chris Taylor.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

B. Approve Term Renewal for Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Member Lida Jennings

C. McCullough made a motion to Approve Term Renewal for Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Member Lida Jennings.
A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

III. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Johnstone shared his understanding and appreciation of the time and efforts towards editing the handbook and safety plan. Dr. McCullough concurred.

Ms. Croft provided an update on the projects she is involved in and the collaborative discussions with the working group. The focus during June and July was creating a

strategic fundraising and development plan blueprint for the next two years to support a sustainable fiscal future. She shared that this approach combines seeking foundation support in identifying grants and fundraising events. She is also researching alternative funding streams, cost/benefit analysis around projects, and collaborating with Mr. Whalen to build RISE's first advisory committee. Discussion at the August meeting will focus on brainstorming collective fundraising actions for the year.

Ms. Croft shared that interns from Emerson Collective are supporting a plan of revamping RISE's social media and online presence, garnering more traffic to the website and articles that outline RISE's success. She has also worked with Ms. Carla Levinson to launch the donation page on RISE's website and social media platforms. Ms. Croft has met and will continue to meet with the Board working group to review potential grants and opportunities for foundation support.

Ms. Croft mentioned her continued collaborative work with Dr. Wunder and Mr. Whalen on participation and impact in the policy sphere. She has created a one-pager with information to pass around to elected officials in support of RISE.

Ms. Croft shared her gratitude and her excitement in continuing to work with RISE in this new role.

Dr. Jennings and Board members discussed returning to in-person meetings. Mrs. Montes-Rodriguez and Dr. McCullough requested that masks and social distancing procedures are in place when returning to in-person meetings.

Mr. Bravo and Dr. Wunder commented that guidance from LADPH will be followed as it continues to change and thanked Dr. Jennings for the discussion.

B. From the CEO

Dr. Wunder congratulated the work Ms. Croft and Mr. Whalen have done in creating a one-pager with information on the work, the why, and the results of RISE. He also shared his confidence in Ms. Croft and Mr. Whalen's collaboration and philanthropic work for long-term sustainable funding.

C. From the Principal/Executive Director

RISE 2021-22 Priorities - Data, campus culture, college and career.

May/June Data - RISE serves 219 students, 46% of whom are opportunity youth; ADA for May is 50.48%, and summer school ADA is 97.27% at Hawthorne, 87.83% at APCH, and 60% at New Earth. 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. He also highlighted data pertaining to student support services provided during the second semester (January – June).

Credit Attainment - Mr. Whalen shared a chart detailing RISE's credit attainment by site, quarters, and years. During COVID campus closure, RISE students earned 1,045 more credits in 20-21 than in the 19-20 school year.

Summer School Highlights - Summer school took place from June 12th through July 2nd. More than 60 students participated, and 211 credits were earned. 80% of ADA was met throughout the sites, as was 100% of target enrollment.

Hawthorne had 97.27% of ADA with 73 credits attained. Highlights include virtual and onsite learning opportunities and significant academic progress.

RISE at APCH had 87.83% of ADA with 107.5 credits attained. Highlights include culminating learning experiences at the LA Central museum, Cultural Plaza Olvera tour, and a skateboard event.

RISE at New Earth had 60% of ADA with over 30 credits attained. Highlights include student engagement in RISE courses and New Earth programming.

New Earth Update - 2021-22 partnership goals include 80% attendance and engagement across New Earth programming and DVR Academic Program and finding a new home for the Arts and Leadership Center. New Earth is continuing to offer all programs and services to RISE students throughout the summer.

APCH Update - 2021-22 partnership goal include having at least 60% of RISE students engaged in APCH services, programs & workshops. Since June 16th, APCH has facilitated three events in which RISE students attended. APCH will be providing backpacks, school supplies, and t-shirts to all returning students this fall.

RISE Summer PD Series - July 26th - August 6th. 35 new and returning staff members participated and were engaged. Week 1 focus is mission and vision, operations, COVID compliance, social-emotional learning, trauma-informed care, PLCs, committees. Week 2 focus is special populations, RISE partnerships, site-based planning, community building, Da Vinci-wide programming.

Richstone - Developments at Richstone are on schedule. Upcoming monthly partnership collaborative meetings will focus on integrated programming and services, and building out a partnership that is steady and sustainable for both organizations.

Fundraising Efforts - The meeting with the Ballmer group focused on collaborating and discussing long-term funding options. Boeing's on-campus visit is scheduled for next week, focusing on sharing the work RISE is doing.

Title I - During Year 1, RISE's unduplicated (FARL/EL/Foster/Homeless) percentage was below 40% with small first-year enrollment. In 2021, RISE is far above 40% threshold for school-wide services (above 70% last year). With the LCAP planning process complete, documented, and approved by the board in June, RISE is able to transition to implementing Title I school-wide spending on those services effective last year and moving forward. Dr. Wunder and Mr. Denniston commented on California providing free lunch for all students and the impacts on LCFF. Discussion ensued.

LACOE - The material revision public hearing is scheduled for August 3rd. Mr. Whalen and Ms. Croft will be presenting. Mr. Roger Van Remmen from Richstone, Mrs. Yana Simone from New Earth, and recent alumna Renicia Schaffner will be speaking in support of RISE during public comments. Mr. Whalen shared his gratitude towards LACOE for their continued support.

Dr. Jennings wished the staff well for the August 3rd LACOE Board meeting, commented on summer school ADA, and shared appreciation for the professional development updates.

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez asked if summer school students were encouraged to participate due to academics or if it was self-initiated. She also noted the higher ADA at Hawthorne and asked if there was a difference between Hawthorne and the other sites. Mr. Whalen shared that priority was based on engagement and need. Special education students that needed onsite support and services were prioritized. New Earth operates as a drop-in center, and staff and students are working on adjusting to cultural and logistical shifts to encourage more daily attendance.

Dr. Jennings inquired about the move from Hawthorne to Richstone in terms of attendance. Mr. Whalen replied that a few families are looking towards the independent studies option. There is no significant decrease in student enrollment.

D. Financial Update

Mr. Amato shared that the final full year-end reports will be presented at the August board meeting. Preliminary results show that revenue projections made in April/May showed a net surplus of about $164,000. Money was spent above projections on the expense end, so the year-end surplus range will be closer to $87,000, which is still a positive net result for the year. The areas in which more money was spent than anticipated are the Tiny House Project ($25,000), COVID return to campus expenditures: air filtration systems, campus return signage, site preparations for returning students ($15,000), graduation ($7,000), and transportation ($20,000). The unanticipated expenses outside original projections are all for positive things. RISE will end the year with around an $87,000 net surplus and just over $700,000 in reserves.

E. Facilities Update

Mr. Bravo provided an update to the Richstone move, sharing that staff has started the unpacking process. Items in storage will be moved the following week. Discussions of indoor air quality solutions are a focus between Richstone staff and RISE. IT is focused on getting the copier, internet, and phone systems up and running. Safety officers will be back on site to familiarize themselves with the new campus and routine. John Fernandez from facilities is creating the public notices signage. Egress and ingress for drop-off/parking were finalized last week with anticipated, necessary changes up for discussion after the first few weeks of school. Mr. Bravo shared that the collaboration between Richstone and RISE staff is going well.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the June 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 06-16-21.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

V. Action Items

A. Accept June 2021 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

T. Johnstone made a motion to Accept June 2021 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

B. Approve the Updated Certification of Signatures

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to Approve the Updated Certification of Signatures.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve 2021-22 RISE High School Calendar

C. McCullough made a motion to Approve 2021-22 RISE High School Calendar.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve 2021-22 Student and Guardian Handbook

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve 2021-22 Student and Guardian Handbook.
A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Draft 2021-22 Comprehensive School Site Plan

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve Draft 2021-22 Comprehensive School Site Plan.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Aye

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

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

Roll Call

C. Taylor	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
J. Morgan	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 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Salango