APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Tuesday November 16, 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/93041217157 Meeting ID: 930 4121 7157, 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

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
C. McCullough

Guests Present
Anthony Gay (remote), Ashley Oku (remote), Chris Howell (remote), Christian Navarro (remote), E. Funes (remote), E. Salango (remote), E. Whalen (remote), Edward Gray (remote), J. Hawn (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Denniston (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Mario Sazo (remote), Meika Nwaomah (remote), N. Lara (remote), Noemi Villasenor (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 16, 2021 at 6:03 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

Roll Call

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

D. Public Comments

None.

II. Special Board Action

A. Special Board Action: Approve and Adopt Board Resolution Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Period November 1, 2021 through November 30, 2021

J. Morgan made a motion to Approve and Adopt Board Resolution Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Period November 1, 2021 through November 30, 2021.
A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

III. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel - Real Estate Negotiations/Lease Agreements

Closed session was entered at 6:08p.m.
C. McCullough arrived at 6:37 PM.

B. Reconvene for Public Session and Closed Session Reporting

Closed session reconvened at 7:48 p.m. Dr. Jennings noted that no action was taken and proposed tabling the HR update and the Facilities update to the December meeting.

IV. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

C. HR Update

D. From the Principal/Executive Director

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

October Data and Demographics Data Update
RISE serves 209 students, 48% of whom are opportunity youth. ADA from 10/4 - 10/29 was 60.41% at Hawthorne, 56.11% at APCH, and 61.3% at New Earth. Schoolwide ADA is 58.39%. 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 first quarter from all three school sites.

SSS Support Services Data - August-November 12
Mrs. Montes-Rodriguez noted the increase in case manager check-ins and individual counseling compared to presentations in the past. Mr. Whalen shared that the increase in data includes general check-ins for all students. Case manager interns have also increased support due to the transitions at New Earth.

Partnership Updates
New Earth: To support building morale, students have had the opportunity to participate in field trips, including pottery, Appia BioTech, the beach, hiking. The career center is open for all students to assist with employment.

APCH: Paid Fall internships have started for students and members. A RISE student is currently interning with the IMPACT program and shadowing other departments. Staff are finalizing family-to-family matching where APCH will be supplying students and their families gift cards for the holidays. Students also received direct financial assistance this month.

Richstone: Staff are working collaboratively to offer no-cost enrichment opportunities to students such as gardening, cooking, etc. RISE students will have opportunities to volunteer in the Richstone Kids Club after-school program. Students will also have access to resources for the holidays, such as free Christmas trees for families in need.

RISE at Richstone:
Students engaged in a STEM interdisciplinary project, Verizon Emoji Design Challenge, during Quarter 1 to earn Math and English credits. Support by Board Members is requested by voting and selecting the winning student-designed emoji. Students engaged in the XQ Math Project Pilot and the Appia Biotech field trip. The new English and Math teachers are serving cross-site and were onboarded. The Special Education teacher position has been filled and is expected to start in early December. Staff are in the process of interviewing candidates to fulfill the open Office Manager position.

RISE at APCH
Participation in various enrichment opportunities, including art workshops with community artists, culinary/business 101 workshops, bath bomb creations, CSU workshops, etc. Students participating within the onsite services are actively engaged with programming and steadily earning credits throughout our 21-22 instructional quarters. With the APCH vaccination mandates, the focus is to increase student vaccination awareness by providing COVID-19 health workshops, inviting medical experts as special guests, providing mobile clinics, student assemblies, etc., to increase the number of students vaccinated at the school site and ultimately maintain student enrollment.

RISE at NE
RISE is commencing the Tenant Awards to build morale and celebrations across campus. There will be a community Thanksgiving potluck for all students and staff. The book club has also started and is focused on student literacy through literature circles. New Earth is still seeking to fill many roles within the organization.

RISE 21-22 Cabinet Members
Mr. Whalen introduced the RISE cabinet. Members across sites will be supporting the evolution of RISE and the re-adaptation post-campus closure. The team is reviewing shared leadership structures and assessing the RISE model at large for refinements and adjustments that need to be made by eliciting feedback and insight from the community.

Dr. McCullough asked about the emoji project. Ms. Naomi Lara shared that the project utilized the curriculum that Verizon launched. The winning student earns a meal from a restaurant of their choice paid by staff.

Mrs. Montes-Rodriguez asked about vaccination requirements at APCH and staff impacts. Mr. Whalen shared that staff will be impacted, but accommodations will be made as needed.

E. Financial Update

Mr. Amato reviewed a summarized P&L for October. As requested in prior meetings, Board members asked for clarity on possible scenarios for year-end results. In reviewing the statement, best-case, middle-case, and worst-case projections were included. Mr. Amato reviewed LCFF revenue within each scenario. As discussed by Mr. Whalen, ADA and enrollment strategies are being reviewed to improve ADA. The decline in the middle and worst-case scenarios are based on ADA funding not meeting what was originally budgeted. RISE is planning to receive more than budgeted in SPED due to additional COVID funding from LACOE. Mr. Amato continued to review the revenue detailing the foundation grant and donation line for all three scenarios.

Mr. Amato reviewed all scenarios for personnel expenses, books and supplies, non-capitalized equipment, other operating and services, professional consulting services,

transportation services, and technology. The best-case scenario indicates that RISE meets the budget increase by $61,000 at the end of the year. The middle and worst-case scenarios show the projection of losing dollars and the necessity to use reserves. Mr. Amato detailed the scenarios based on ADA funding, fundraising, and expenses.

Mr. Amato briefly shared information about the auditor service agreement up for approval. The agreement is a set of one-year agreements priced for three years, with the option to cancel at any time.

Mrs. Morgan asked about HopSkipDrive costs and attendance rates. Mr. Whalen shared updates to the policy to support decreased costs.

F. Facilities Update

V. Discussion

A. Fundraising Working Group

Mrs. Kari Croft shared grant application updates. The status of the Drown Foundation proposal will be provided mid-December. Regarding the Reinvention Lab grant submitted last month, staff were invited to an interview on January 13th for the next round. RISE did not advance for the STOP award as elementary schools and non-profits launched during COVID were prioritized. Mrs. Croft reviewed collaboration efforts and updates with Emerson collective, XQ Super Schools, and Capitol Advisors for potential pathways for special legislation and expanding communications through potential media outlets. Discussions center around the development plan and funding challenges.

The advisory committee met last week and completed a decent amount of foundation prospecting. Over 15 potential leads for foundations were identified. The list has been shared with the board working group, Mr. Whalen, and Dr. Wunder to prioritize and identify existing connections. Mrs. Croft thanked Ms. Carla Levinson and her team for supporting the giving campaign. Currently in progress are meeting requests with Ahmanson and Parsons Foundations. Through APCH, there is potential for a multi-year funding opportunity. In support of this, materials and a strategic plan will be shared with the CEO of APCH. Mrs. Croft is also finalizing a list of priority foundations and delegations of responsibilities and timelines.

Mrs. Croft shared concerns and challenges to garner problem-solving strategies with the group. Some concerns are limited staff capacity, competing priorities, and the need for alignment on necessary actions to ensure goals are being met. Mrs. Croft shared that moving target of the total amount of the deficit contributes to the difficulty of strategic planning and clear communication with potential funders. She thanked Mr. Amato for his presentation and breakdown of different scenarios, which provided context and guidance for the organization. Further challenges in applying for grants and opportunities center around more organizations applying with fewer foundations willing to take the risk on new

and unfamiliar organizations. A few big donors or foundations have expressed they are not accepting new requests for grants and are not considering letters of intent or proposals. Mrs. Croft spoke of the urgency around creating greater collective alignment around priority actions and deadlines, so everyone moves forward together.

Dr. Jennings suggested inviting Dr. Wunder to the December 1st Board Working Group meeting to support prioritization and discuss focusing Board support and efforts.

Mr. Taylor asked for brief clarification on the points Mrs. Croft made and asked if something specific was needed from the Board. Mrs. Croft clarified her points and asked for direction in her efforts to be of best use.

VI. Special Presentation

A. Presentation: Educator Effectiveness Block Grant for Da Vinci RISE

Mr. Whalen reviewed the Educator Effective Block Grant and shared how the funds are being determined and what the funds are spent on. RISE will be focusing on strategies to implement social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, suicide prevention, access to mental health services, and other approaches that improve pupil well-being. Use of the funds will be used to supplement co-location partnership fees to provide mental health services, wellness programming, case management, arts and enrichment and diversion programming to support RISE students. The funds will be utilized in SY 22-23.

B. Public Comments on the Educator Effectiveness Grant

None.

C. Board Comments/Questions on Educator Effectiveness Block Grant

None.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the October 20, 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 10-20-21.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call	
L. Jennings	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

VIII. Action Items

A. Accept October 2021 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

J. Morgan made a motion to Accept October 2021 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

B. Approve Auditor Service Agreement with Christy White Inc.

J. Morgan made a motion to Approve Auditor Service Agreement with Christy White Inc.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

C. Approve and Adopt Guidelines for Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve and Adopt Guidelines for Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
Mrs. Morgan asked if there is a change to the guidelines.

Dr. Johnstone noted that this policy is modified every year.

Dr. Hawn concurred that this is an existing policy with updated language relating to restraint protocols.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Ratify Agreement between HopSkipDrive and Da Vinci RISE High

C. McCullough made a motion to Ratify Agreement between HopSkipDrive and Da Vinci RISE High.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
Jennifer Morgan - Is LACOE involved? No. Agreements like these are operational.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

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

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
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 8:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Salango