APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Monday January 24, 2022 at 6:15 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/99927265181 Meeting ID: 999 2726 5181, 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

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
C. McCullough

Guests Present
Anthony Gay (remote), Anthony Pur (remote), E'Bow Morgan (remote), E. Funes (remote), E. Salango (remote), E. Whalen (remote), Edward Gray (remote), Ivonne Alarcon (remote), J. Hawn (remote), Jaqueline Rodriguez (remote), Kari Kroft (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Marcy Kearney (remote), Mario Sazo (remote), N. Lara (remote), Shiala Smith (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 Monday Jan 24, 2022 at 6:17 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** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Absent

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Absent
C. Taylor	Aye
T. Johnstone	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 January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2022

J. Morgan made a motion to Approve and Adopt Board Resolution Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Period January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2022.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

III. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Jennings shared her condolences to the RISE community for the loss of a former staff member and student.

B. Financial Update

Marcy Kearney from Christy White and Associates reviewed the 2020 Annual Audit Report. The report for RISE was clean with no issues. Ms. Kearney reviewed the responsibilities of both the charter and the auditor. The charter's responsibility includes effective internal controls, financial statements, and preparing and managing the budget. The auditor's responsibility is providing an unmodified opinion and reasonable assurance that the financial statement is materially correct and in compliance with K-12 state requirements. The auditor does not address the financial condition of the charter or absolute assurance. Key points in the audit report include no new accounting policies, accounting estimates, sensitive disclosures, audit adjustments, difficulties, disagreements, or audit findings/issues, and management representation. Ms. Kearny

shared her appreciation for the staff for their cooperation. Dr. Wunder and Dr. Johnstone shared their appreciation for Marcy.

Mr. Amato reiterated as Ms. Kearny shared, that there were no adjustments in the audit. Year-end results from June 30, 2021, are final and unchanged. The tax return will be presented at the next Board meeting and will be filed on time.

Mr. Amato reviewed the November and December financial statements with projected scenarios in respect to the first interim revised budget presented at the previous meeting. He reviewed the different scenarios for LCFF revenue/state funding based on enrollment and ADA with gaps relating to ADA fluctuation. Staff is working to increase overall ADA at a current target of 67%. Dr. Jennings asked for clarification on the target ADA, and Dr. Johnstone inquired about the pre-COVID percentage. Mr. Amato shared that prior to COVID, RISE's ADA was upwards of 78%. Discussion ensued. Mr. Amato continued to share the projections for revenue in books and supplies, grants, fundraising, legal fees, transportation, and CMO fees. Key figures of net income loss in the best-case scenario are $344,000 and $816,000 in the worst-case, with an influx of restricted funds of $218,000. The change in unrestricted net assets fluctuates between $600,000 in the worst-case scenario and $120,000 in the best-case scenario. The school year started with $689,000 available in unrestricted funds. Depending on the changes in unrestricted net assets, the scenarios based on available funds are $91,000 worst case, $560,000 best case, and $350,000 based on the current budget.

Mr. Amato provided an update on the governor's proposed budget with potential good news regarding funding the current LCFF COLA increase, STRS costs, and additional potential funding sources.

C. From the CEO/Superintendent

Dr. Wunder shared his appreciation for the staff who have been working on fundraising and advocacy efforts. Potential funders include California Community Foundation, Ballmer Group, and Parsons.

D. From the Principal/Executive Director

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

December Data and Demographics Data Update
RISE serves 204 students, 51% of whom are opportunity youth. ADA from 11/27 - 12/14 was 54.05% at Richstone, 48.37% at APCH, and 57.84% at New Earth. Schoolwide ADA is 57.92%. 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.

The Sentinel Press Release

A new article was published in print and online to share the current challenges RISE is facing due to the decrease in ADA and inequitable funding for schools serving the most at-risk populations in the city. The article featured a student highlight and shared the current deficit projection without increased ADA or fundraising.

Student Support Services Update
SSS has begun planning for home visits. Home visits will be conducted for students in need of welfare checks and/or chronically absent students. Case Managers and Interns will begin providing group counseling for stress management, anger management, executive functioning, and grief counseling. Mr. Whalen also highlighted data pertaining to student support services provided from August through December 6th from all three school sites.

Partnership Updates
New Earth: Instructional collaboration is being forged between Da Vinci New Earth staff and Spirit Awakening to provide credit attainment through their creative writing course offering. Site-Specific Student Council was formed.

APCH: COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Clinic continues to be onsite and will remain onsite every other Tuesday through March. APCH matched 26 RISE members with donors this December, providing them with gifts and gift cards from their holiday wishlists. NFL LA Rams player Sebastian Joseph Day is giving individual gifts of up to $100 to APCH members. 25 RISE members are participating and will be receiving gifts of their choice, ranging from grocery store gift cards and cooking utensils to video games and clothes.

Richstone: Richstone & RISE will commence weekly meetings to outline and develop programming options funded by Sierra Health Foundation & Elevate Youth California's $10,000 grant award.

2021 RISE Winter Graduation
Da Vinci RISE High School graduated six students in December. A banquet-style ceremony was held to celebrate the students.

RISE at Richstone:
The schedule pilot was successful and led to development of refined Quarter 3 schedule which includes: dedicated time for each student to meet with advisor and engage in enrichment offerings, dedicated Zoom class times to support our fully virtual students, and opportunities for virtual office hours for all students on their independent workdays. RISE facilitated a successful onsite rapid COVID testing campaign at Richstone to ensure all RISE students had an equitable opportunity to test prior to returning to campus. Launching this week is the STEM and Humanities interdisciplinary instructional model allows for two consistent teachers to remain onsite each week. Areas of growth include attendance which dipped significantly the first week back on campus. Staff is hopeful that

the new interdisciplinary teaching model and refined schedule launch will lead to an increase in attendance through consistent virtual support. Next steps include maintaining strong feedback cycles with staff & students throughout Q3, and continuing the work to bring Richstone programming to RISE through grant.

RISE at APCH
The COVID Campaign continues at RISE APCH. Bi-weekly COVID Vaccine Clinics and free COVID rapid testing for the community are offered on campus. The new Quarter 3 schedule plan rolls out the week of January 18th. This plan allows for the following site benefits: cohorting w/ Humanities and STEM, student virtual options for absent and/or during independent workdays, weekly advisory sessions - regular PLP review, goal setting, academic progress monitoring, etc., weekly enrichment offerings. Sessions will include but are not limited to DSD tutorials, core subject area support, reading workshop, ELD support, Teen Summit, counseling groups, and a stress and mindfulness series. Areas of growth include targeting ADA growth and increasing student enrollment with a focus placed specifically on Tuesday/Thursday afternoon student cohorts. Next steps include continuing to progress monitor the Quarter 3 pilot, gathering student and stakeholder feedback, and end of quarter academic data analysis/academic growth comparisons.

RISE at NE
Catalina Cabrero is New Earth’s 2021 Winter Graduate. Student Donnaysia Brinkley has been elected to serve as parliamentarian on our School Site Council. She has accepted recruitment to serve on the Student Advisory Council at The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Six students are five credits or less away from completing all STEM course credits. Areas of strength include student governance opportunities and elevated attendance. Areas of growth include a greater fusion of communication and shared practices and policies within the partnership. Next steps include student accountability to the school schedule and daily recorded course progress, establishing procedures and protocols for student traffic, and more direct co-planning and cooperation within the partnership.

Site-based Facilities Brief
New Earth – RISE might not have to pursue the Conditional Use Permit/Certificate of Occupancy at the Bristol location, pending a 22-23 facility decision.

APCH - Vaccination Policy: Extension provided until February 1st, 2022. All APCH Members and staff must be fully vaccinated by 2/1/22 to access the building.

Richstone – Certificate of Occupancy is in progress. Staff is currently awaiting feedback from the LA Fire department and final correction feedback from the Hawthorne Building Safety department.

Mr. Whalen commemorated former staff member Kai Atticus Ybarzabal and APCH student Ixchel Gomez. He also thanked Board members for sharing messages of gratitude to RISE staff during the holiday season.

E. Facilities Update

Mr. Bravo provided updates to the Certificate of Occupancy status for Richstone and indoor air quality at all sites. In support of COVID-19, since RISE sites co-locate with partners, RISE staff recommend HTC systems with high-grade filers to partners such as bipolar ionization systems. Currently, all sites use plug-in air filtration units provided earlier in the year. Mid-year quality checks are currently taking place. KN95 and N95 masks have been distributed to staff and students as needed.

IV. Discussion

A. Fundraising Working Group

Mrs. Croft provided grant application updates. The Drown Foundation has awarded $50,000 to RISE. The applications process for Teach For America Reinvention Lab: Enduring Ideas ($10,000 requested) is complete, and an interview was held with RISE staff and former student. Awardees will be announced in February. Staff is awaiting application status results from Parsons Foundation ($500,000 requested), Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation ($50,000 requested), George Hoag Family Foundation ($50,000 requested), and Lyft ($3,000 in ride credits requested (maximum request possible)).

Postcards have been mailed to encourage and maintain relationships with donors, and a GuideStar profile was created to support ongoing donation requests and verification of 501C3 status to build credibility and development efforts.

Ms. Croft reviewed the next steps and projects currently in progress, including research and recommendations for transportation alternatives and university partnerships for research and policy recommendations. Ms. Croft is working on the donor/fundraising toolkit to centralize documents for future development efforts. Upcoming meetings include the advisory committee meeting on January 31st and the working group meeting on February 1st. Ms. Croft thanked Dr. McCullough for her detailed work on celebrity foundations.

Mrs. Croft requested support in the following areas: letter of interest for two potential projects to support funding the college and career program and facilities and renovations support. She has also requested support for continuing progress with the advisory committee, a review of the foundation list to identify potential connections prior to outreach, and guidance on focus projects and requests. Ms. Croft shared that she will be transitioning out of the development support role and shared her appreciation to the Board and staff for allowing her to continue to support RISE.

Dr. Jennings and Dr. Wunder thanked Mrs. Croft for her work with RISE and wished her well on future ventures.

V. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the December 7, 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 12-07-21.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VI. Action Items

A. Accept December 2021 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

T. Johnstone made a motion to Accept December 2021 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Audit Report

C. Taylor made a motion to Approve Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Audit Report.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Absent

C. Approve 2020-2021 School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve 2020-2021 School Accountability Report Card (SARC).
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve 2022-23 Da Vinci RISE High Comprehensive School Safety Plan

L. Jennings made a motion to Approve 2022-23 Da Vinci RISE High Comprehensive School Safety Plan.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Interagency Agreement between the LA County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the LA County Office of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), the LA County Office of Education (LACOE) and Da Vinci RISE High for a Long-Term Transportation Plan to Ensure School Stability for Foster Care Youth

C. Taylor made a motion to Approve Interagency Agreement between the LA County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the LA County Office of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), the LA County Office of Education (LACOE) and Da Vinci RISE High for a Long-Term Transportation Plan to Ensure School Stability for Foster Care Youth.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Taylor	Aye

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Master Contract with STAR of California for Special Educational Services

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve Master Contract with STAR of California for Special Educational Services.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approve Master Contract with The Stepping Stones Group for Special Educational Services

C. Taylor made a motion to Approve Master Contract with The Stepping Stones Group for Special Educational Services.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VII. Closed Session

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

Closed session was entered at 7:27pm
C. McCullough arrived at 7:29 PM.

B. Reconvene for Public Session and Closed Session Reporting

Closed session reconvened at 8:16pm. Dr. Jennings noted that no action was taken.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

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

Roll Call

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Salango