APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday April 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Da Vinci Schools ("DV") 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 DV 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 conducted through Zoom. Join Zoom meeting at https://zoom.us/j/94457190081, Meeting ID: 944 5719 0081, or dial (669) 900-6833.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members on the Da Vinci Schools website at www.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 each 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. Please contact 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 the CEO's office at 310-725-5800 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
B. Meath (remote), D. Boston (remote), D. Brann (remote), J. Webber (remote), R. Ochoa (remote), R. Santiago (remote)

Trustees Absent
J. Morgan

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth (remote), Aaron Diaz (remote), Anthony Pur (remote), C. Levenson (remote), Carisma De Anda (remote), Chiamaka Offokansi (remote), Christian Salinas (remote), J. Hawn (remote), John Umekubo (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Denniston (remote), M. Martin (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Monique Ingram (remote), Noah Chan (remote), R. Stoll (remote), S. Wallis (remote), V. Bravo (remote), Victoria Jackson (remote), Zirak Engineer (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Brann called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday Apr 27, 2022 at 6:03 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

R. Santiago made a motion to approve.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
D. Brann	Aye
B. Meath	Aye

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye
D. Boston Aye
J. Morgan Absent

D. Public Comments

None

II. Information

A. From the Board

Dr. Brann commented that he attended the Carnival and was impressed to see the large number of attendees. He also announced that the Board will be launching a search for a new Trustee who is a resident of the Wiseburn District.

B. Working Group Update

Mr. Meath noted that the Finance and Facilities Working Group held its inaugural meeting. He, Dr. Webber, Ms. JoAnne Kaneda, and Mr. Roger Banuelos met for an hour, and have scheduled another meeting in May. They discussed agenda topics such as how monies are transferred between Wiseburn and Da Vinci, and how revenues are shared. It was a good, positive conversation. He looks forward to future discussions.

Dr. Webber also felt the conversation was constructive. She found the conversation on the pool was enlightening, and shared that they will be looking at all the finances of all the facilities. She felt it was a solid conversation.

Mr. Meath noted the Governance Working Group will be meeting in early May. Mr. Derrick Boston, Dr. Neil Goldman and Mr. Roger Banuelos are meeting.

Mr. Santiago noted that he has reached out to the Wiseburn Board members Ms. Rebecca Hamburg-Cappy and Mr. Nelson Martinez of the Arts & Athletics Working Group to schedule a meeting date.

C. From the CEO/Superintendent

Dr. Wunder commented that a Town Hall meeting was held to address the events after the Da Vinci Design Community Dialogue. Dr. Webber and Mr. Santiago joined the constructive meeting.

Dr. Wunder noted that this has been yet another challenging year. He has deep appreciation for all, students and staff, who are stepping up and working hard and well.

He is looking forward to Rock Around the Block this weekend. Dr. Wunder said that he was slated to be in the dunk tank at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Mr. Santiago and Dr. Silvers are also going to be in the tank.

Dr. Wunder informed the board that the Department of Public Health may soon change COVID exposure guidelines.

Dr. Brann concurred that this has been yet another difficult year, and that the Board fully supports the staff, who are the right people who are up to the task.

D. Student Board Member Update

Dr. Hawn shared that this is the last Student Board Member update for the year. She then listed and thanked all thirteen Student Board Members: Christian Salinas, Daniela Torres, Michaela Williams, Mathew Silver, Aaron Diaz, Frankie Johnson, Zirak Engineer, Leilah Harper, Victoria Jackson, Tania Newman, Noah Chan, Emma Enriquez, Chiamaka Offokansi, and Student Board Member Coordinator Carisma De Anda.

Ms. De Anda introduced the update.
Victoria Jackson gave the update for Da Vinci Design, speaking of the Spring Exhibition, Content classes for Seniors, Senior Project Pitch POLs, and Community Dialogue.

Chiamaka Offokansi gave the update on important events at Da Vinci Science, noting the FRC Robotics tournament in Houston, SBAC testing, student-led tours for Assistant Principal and Math teacher candidates, Science & Engineering Showcase, Society of Women Engineers event, the first Overnighter in two years, and upcoming Senior Awards Night and Prom.

Zirak Engineer gave the Connect K-8 update, sharing Exhibition events, the Odyssey of the Mind competition (three teams which included Connect students made it to the Worlds level competition in Iowa), Middle School Dance, and upcoming 8th grade Knotts Berry Farm field trip.

Aaron Diaz gave the Connect High School update, noting Culture Day, Black Student Union's Denim Day in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and PRIDE Week events. Mr. Diaz also shared that Connect High School students have completed 100 college classes this month.

Christian Salinas gave the update for Communications, saying that DVC held Exhibition nights, Senior Picnic, Team Building, Career Fair, 10th Grade Overnight Retreat, and Reagan Library Field Trip. DVC also held a Multicultural Event and an upcoming Cal Poly Field Trip.

Ms. De Anda thanked the Da Vinci Schools Board, Dr. Hawn, Dr. Wunder, and all the school principals. She commented that she is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the other student board members.

Dr. Brann thanked Ms. De Anda for initiating the program. He congratulated her on her acceptance to UC Berkeley. He also thanked Dr. Hawn for working with the students. He wished all the seniors well

E. Presentation: Da Vinci Design Update

Mr. Russell Stoll, principal of Da Vinci Design, noted the work done after the events of the March 4th Community Dialogue. The staff and students, including members of the Black Student Union and Diversity Council held a series of Mediation sessions as well as the Town Hall Conversation with Families and Students to process the events and discuss next steps. Mr. Stoll thanked Dr. Webber and Mr. Santiago for participating in the Town Hall. A joint statement about the ongoing work was made at the subsequent Community Dialogue on April 20. Students expressed a desire to learn more about each other's cultures, hence the upcoming Multicultural Fair on May 9 and 10. Other upcoming events are the 9th grade Camp Retreat and the May 26 Senior Showcase.

The 2022 Exhibition is another Design highlight. Exhibition offers a unique opportunity for rigorous interdisciplinary work, and students prove this by creating original work, making interdisciplinary connections, and explaining it to an outside audience. Teachers and students spend months planning for Exhibition.

9th graders hosted a Zine Fest, utilizing English, Spanish, and Physics in designing and constructing zines by hand and selling them. They also shared digital versions with unique QR codes.
10th graders showcased Superhero Stories and a Poetry Slam, working in Spanish, English, and Art.
11th graders focused on public health and government planning. The Architecture pathway students designed dream houses; Biology students created photo essays to bring awareness to public health disparities in urban life. The Entrepreneurship students screen printed public health posters. Students' Graphic Design and English projects analyzed quotes from Orwell's *1984* to make connections to the Cold War.

12th grade Economics students looked at prices during the pandemic to explain current inflation. Architecture students designed buildings to evoke a specific emotion, and 12th grade English students and Ethnic studies looked at past and future issues in advertising

Mr. Stoll thanked the community for coming out to see the work at Exhibition.

Mr. Stoll also shared photos of the Overnighter's unexpected snow day.

Dr. Webber thanked Mr. Stoll, and noted that Exhibition requires students to fully comprehend the work in order to share it with the audience.

F. Canvas LMS Adoption Presentation

Dr. Hawn introduced Da Vinci Design parent John Umekubo, who has facilitated the Technology Advisory Committee, which consists of teachers, administrators, and IT staff across the Da Vinci Schools. The Committee was convened because Da Vinci realized the importance of technology during the pandemic.

Mr. Umekubo spoke of the importance of including the stakeholders from all the schools and Central Office.

The Canvas Learning Management System conversation has been ongoing for two years. The Committee looked at many systems and spoke with different vendors. Da Vinci initially used Google Classroom in Fall 2020 because of the teachers' familiarity with it and the fact that Canvas didn't have all the tools the Da Vinci team needed at the time, including parent access and integration with PowerSchool.

Canvas is now integrated with PowerSchool, allowing teachers to enter grades once, as opposed to twice (in Google Classroom and PowerSchool). Ms. Gloria White, Mr. Chris Miller, and Mr. Jesse Corral analyzed the Canvas capabilities to ensure that it would work for Da Vinci. Mr. Umekubo shared that Canvas' new integration with PowerSchool pushes data in a nightly migration and provides one-stop convenience for students and families. Dr. Hawn noted that Canvas is used by Wiseburn and many colleges and universities.

Dr. Hawn shared that the Canvas contract will be brought to the board in May for approval. The Technology Advisory Committee will continue to conduct PD planning and summer piloting into the future.

Dr. Webber inquired how Canvas compared to other vendors by cost. Mr. Umekubo responded that Blackboard, BlackBaud, Schoology, all cost tens of thousands of dollars. Google is cheaper because their offering is not as comprehensive.

Mr. Ochoa inquired if Canvas provides a communication system for parents. Mr. Umekubo noted that Canvas has built-in messaging, and iOs and Android apps for messaging.

Dr. Brann commented that he is glad to see Mr. Umekubo on the job. He plans to support the item when it comes up for approval.

G. Advancement Update

Ms. Megan Martin and Ms. Carla Levenson spoke of the Advancement team, which includes Grants Finance Manager Maryam Diaab, and consultant Valerie Green, with the support of CFO Michael Amato and Finance and Accounting Manager Pamela Li.

Seven grants have been submitted thus far this year, and seven more are in progress. Eight additional grants are in the research stage, and five more are on the horizon.

Ms. Levenson spoke of the $4.9MM raised last year, and the $7.5MM that has been received or pledged to date in 2021-22. Many of the grants are CTE facilities and incentive grants, an emergency connectivity grant, the Northrop/Cal Poly/Da Vinci partnership multi-year grant, etc.

Pledges for 2021-2023 total $6.1MM.

Since the inception of Da Vinci Schools, $85.6MM has been fundraised, including $33MM raised beyond facilities funding.

Dr. Brann thanked Ms. Levenson and Ms. Martin, noting the wise addition of a grants manager to the team to support grants compliance. He noted Dr. Wunder's expertise in evangelizing and fundraising, but said that it takes a team effort to maintain the momentum.

Dr. Webber inquired about the total available funds being sought. She also wanted to know if there were multi-year grants. Mr. Amato commented that a high percentage of the grants are multi-year grants. He noted that it is important to remember the difference between funds received and grants won but funds not yet received. He also noted that future updates will show when various grants are expected to be received and spent.

Discussion ensued on whether or not the Advancement team is large enough to handle all of the grants being sought and won. Mr. Amato noted the addition of a team member will help, but whether or not it is enough staffing remains to be seen.

Mr. Boston applauded the extraordinary results, saying that it is a testament to what Da Vinci does differently, like SLCs, POLs, and the focus on STEM that is attracting attention from across the nation and across the world. It is also a testament to the students from across the city who are having incredible success at Da Vinci and the work of the grant writers and funders.

Dr. Wunder shared his gratitude for Mr. Boston and Dr. Brann's words. He noted a 2003 conversation he held with Mr. Jim Buckheit, founding head of Vistamar School, who said that you don't ask for money; you share what is going on at the school. Dr. Wunder also noted that funders often want to give to innovative solutions and to programs that close the gap between students who have more and those who don't. Funders also look for

Boards that are high-functioning and make sound decisions, which is a key reason Da Vinci has been able to raise these dollars.

Dr. Brann commented that the Rock Around the Block event is the major annual fundraising event for the Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF). Given that Da Vinci's fundraising efforts are so successful, he encouraged WEF to focus its efforts on Wiseburn's K-8 schools.

H. Financial Update

Mr. Michael Amato shared March financials, saying that the previous meeting's Second Interim projections are based on February and March results. Not much has changed since the previous meeting's report. Cash remains high and grant funds and In Lieu Of Property Tax funds are expected by the end of the year. Mr. Amato shared liabilities and reserves (including deferred maintenance costs, economic uncertainty, and the soccer field costs).

He also shared the Profit & Loss sheet, commenting that Da Vinci had just been notified that the State had overpaid $63K in LCFF revenue for 2020-21, which affects the P&L total.

Mr. Amato spoke about the difficulties in making projections when taking into account fluctuating ADA.

Capital project funding total estimated costs are $9.8MM. Unfunded totals of $4.4MM exist.

Mr. Miles Denniston shared that there are about three weeks until the May Revise. He anticipates the COLA in the May Revise will be higher than January's 5.33%. The final State budget will be revealed later in May.

The PERS rate is slightly lower than projected, and the projections for years after next year are trending down. The State has been buying down the STRS and PERS rates.

Brief discussion on a potential higher LCFF base ensued.

Dr. Wunder noted that not all of the Capital Projects listed on Mr. Amato's report have been approved by the Board.

Mr. Amato closed by reminding the Board that he uses the lower, conservative COLA numbers and 2% STRS increase when budgeting, and makes adjustments after the May Revise.

I. Operations Update

Mr. Vicente Bravo shared the soccer field progress, saying that soil testing is being done for both the field and the CTE Studio by one vendor (ENCORP), saving money and time.

Mr. Bravo has spoken with other districts who are currently installing fields, to compare notes. He anticipates completion of the field in late August depending on whether or not DSA approval needs to be acquired.

Other facilities additions include lunch benches to afford students more space, and benches along the parking lot drop off lane. New parking lot signage allows ESPD to cite and/or tow unauthorized vehicles, and enforce other rules and laws.

Mr. Bravo also showed the office pods that have been installed in the Sandbox, and the new Grab n' Go Coffee Bar installation with its movable fixtures in the Atrium. Mr. John Fernandez and his Facilities team will install electrical, plumbing and flooring. Mr. Russell Stoll will work with the Entrepreneurship pathway students preparing to staff the coffee bar.

Connect High School has a new drop-off and pick-up lane in their parking lot, as well as a new outdoor lunch area.

Athletic Director D.R. Moreland will hold an Athletics Information Night for Incoming 9th graders on May 10. On May 12, there will be an Information Meeting regarding How Sports Are Chosen. Summer programs for basketball and volleyball are being planned.

Brief discussion on the pool closure ensued. The City of El Segundo (in conjunction with Wiseburn Unified School District) is responsible for maintaining and communicating about the pool.

Dr. Brann also pointed out the community's misperception that the Da Vinci gym does not meet NBA standards. He stated for the record that a rumor has started on social media that the gym was not built to NBA standards, when in fact, the gym was built correctly to high school, CIF standards. The gym is being used as it was meant to be used.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes for the March 23, 2022 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 03-23-22.
D. Boston seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Morgan Absent

Roll Call

B. Meath	Aye
D. Boston	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
D. Brann	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
J. Webber	Aye

B. Approval of Minutes of the April 18, 2022 Special Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Special Board Meeting on 04-18-22.
D. Boston seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Webber	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
R. Ochoa	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
D. Brann	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
D. Boston	Aye

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Accept Da Vinci Schools Payment Register - March 2022

J. Webber made a motion to accept the Da Vinci Schools March 2022 Payment Register.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
D. Brann	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
D. Boston	Aye

B. Approve Renewal of Line of Credit with Banc of California

J. Webber made a motion to approve Renewal of the Line of Credit with Banc of California.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
D. Boston	Aye
D. Brann	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
J. Webber	Aye

C. Approve Sandy Pringle and Associates Proposal for DSA Project Inspection

J. Webber made a motion to approve Sandy Pringle and Associates Proposal for DSA Project Inspection.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Absent
D. Boston	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
D. Brann	Aye

D. Approve 2022-2023 School Calendars for Da Vinci Connect, Communications, Design, and Science

J. Webber made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendars for Da Vinci Connect, Communications, design, and Science.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Absent
D. Brann	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
D. Boston	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye

E. Approve Executive Director of Da Vinci Institute Position

Dr. Brann shared that this item concerns a new position, not a particular person. The job description may be revised as needed. Dr. Wunder shared that this is not a huge departure from the Institute Director position, but is an opportunity to help align the work inside Da Vinci. Some potential funding sources have been identified.

D. Brann made a motion to approve the Executive Director of Da Vinci Institute Position.
J. Webber seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Boston	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
J. Webber	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
D. Brann	Aye

F. Approve and Adopt Resolution Approving the Addition of Juneteenth National Independence Day and César Chávez Day as School Holidays

Dr. Hawn explained that following the Board's approval of Juneteenth as a school holiday, a request was made to recognize César Chávez Day as a school holiday. Dr. Hawn conducted research and has learned that most schools have adopted one day or the other, not both, and that many schools are offering a floating holiday. Staff get to choose if they wish to observe Juneteenth or César Chávez Day. Students are already at their minimum number of instructional days, so that one day was added to the school calendar to accommodate it. The floating holiday only impacts 12-month, Classified staff in terms of choosing which day to observe.
J. Webber made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Approving the Addition of Juneteenth National Independence Day and César Chávez Day as School Holidays.
D. Brann seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Webber	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
D. Boston	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
R. Ochoa	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
D. Brann	Aye

Dr. Brann asked the staff and board not to forget about Mr. Boston's request for additional language classes in the school curricula.

V. Action Items

A. Approve Employment Contract for Chief Administrative Officer/Assistant Superintendent

B. Meath made a motion to approve.
R. Santiago seconded the motion.

Dr. Brann stated that the Chief Administrative Officer/Assistant Superintendent contract, a position held by Vicente Bravo, has been approved at an annual salary of $205,692. The board voted 6-0 to approve that contract.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Webber	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
D. Boston	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
D. Brann	Aye

B. Approve Employment Contract for Chief Financial Officer

B. Meath made a motion to approve.
J. Webber seconded the motion.
The Chief Financial Officer contract, a position held by Michael Amato, has been approved at an annual salary of $214,252.50.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Absent
R. Santiago	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
D. Brann	Aye
D. Boston	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
B. Meath	Aye

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed Session entered at 8:16 p.m.

VII. Closing Items

A. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public Session resumed at 9:22 PM.

Dr. Brann stated that no action was taken in Closed Session. Voting on Action Items V. A. and V. B. commenced.

B. Adjourn Meeting

D. Boston made a motion to adjourn.

R. Santiago seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
R. Santiago	Aye
J. Morgan	Absent
D. Brann	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
D. Boston	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: May 25, 2022.