



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday May 25, 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/98683151961>, Meeting ID: 986 8315 1961, 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
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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. Morgan (remote), J. Webber (remote), R. Ochoa (remote), R. Santiago (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

D. Boston

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned

R. Ochoa

Guests Present

A. Daramola (remote), A. Johnson (remote), A. Wohlwerth (remote), Anne Tittle (remote), Anthony Pur (remote), C. Levenson (remote), E. D'Souza (remote), J. Hawn (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Denniston (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Monique Ingram (remote), R. Stoll (remote), S. Wallis (remote), V. Bravo (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 May 25, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Special Board Action - Approve and Adopt Board Resolution for Teleconference Board Meetings Pursuant to Special Rules in Government Code Section 54953(e)

B. Meath made a motion to approve.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye
D. Boston Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
J. Morgan Aye
D. Brann Aye
J. Webber Aye
R. Santiago Aye
D. Boston arrived at 6:01 PM.

D. 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

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

E. Public Comments

None

II. Information

A. From the Board

Dr. Brann noted that the Trustee search is underway, and the application deadline has been extended to obtain a better cross section of applicants by enlarging the pool of applications.

Mr. Meath inquired as to which trustees are on the search panel. Dr. Brann responded that Dr. Webber and Mr. Santiago from Da Vinci and Dr. Goldman and Ms. Kaneda are the Wiseburn representatives.

Dr. Webber thanked the principals for the week-long series of student events.

Mr. Boston commented that he would like to see a course or series of courses on financial literacy added to the curriculum. And he would like to see written or video portions of driver's education considered as an addition to the curriculum.

B. Working Group Update

Mr. Ochoa reported that the Arts & Athletics working group had met (Ray, Raul, Nelson, Rebecca), and discussed obtaining a baseline list of courses at both Da Vinci and Wiseburn. The meeting was productive and the trustees are looking forward to their next meeting.

Mr. Meath reported that the first Governance meeting unfortunately had to be rescheduled. The second Finance & Facilities meeting discussed a list of expenditures that bilaterally go between Da Vinci and Wiseburn. The list was shared with Dr. Wunder and Mr. Amato. Mr. Meath requested compiling a list of capital expenditures as well as the operating expenditures that were discussed.

C. From the CEO/Superintendent

Dr. Wunder expressed his outrage and sadness about the spate of shootings in Buffalo, New York, Santa Ana, California, and Uvalde, Texas. He shared his belief that while Da Vinci Schools is not a political organization with a social justice platform, it aspires to be a safe place where everyone respects and appreciates each other, and views diversity as a strength. Dr. Wunder recognized Mr. Bravo, Mr. Noya and the Campus Safety Team, and the efforts of all of the staff, in addition to the work of the El Segundo Police Chief Bermudez, Officer Stefanie Martinez, and School Resource Officer Josh Gilberts. He thanked the Board for their support of the small schools model, where students can be seen and heard.

Dr. Wunder also thanked Ms. Morgan for her work on the Board over the years and her investment of thousands of hours in making Da Vinci a better place, caring for not just Wiseburn resident students, but Da Vinci students who live outside the Wiseburn attendance boundaries.

Dr. Wunder then gave information regarding the Varsity Girls' Volleyball request for approval of their out-of-state tournament trip at the end of their very successful CIF season. As California Southern Regional Semifinalists, they are offered the chance to play in a 4-day tournament in Hawaii in August. At about \$1,000 per athlete, the trip will be paid for by parents and fundraising. The Business Office has confirmed that insurance coverage is in place.

Dr. Wunder thanked Mr. Boston for challenging the staff to look at how to add courses to the curriculum.

Dr. Allegra Johnson spoke of creating the process for adding courses to the curriculum. She spoke of the decision-making process, the stakeholders, and the RACI model.

Brief discussion ensued on who makes the ultimate decision. The Board would make the decision based on the leadership team's SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses,

Opportunities, Threats) and the RACI model (Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed)

The challenges in staffing, budget, and physical capacity to build an entire program per language. The team will look at external partnerships (community college, etc.) to add language options without needing to add staff.

Mr. Ochoa commented that the team should consider which languages colleges look for in prospective students, and which languages offer college credit.

Dr. Brann suggested that looking at other high schools may uncover staff resources that may be shared. He commended the staff for their speed in returning to the board with this analysis.

Dr. Johnson asked the board members for suggestions and additional feedback on the process.

Dr. Webber spoke of the opportunity to leverage the partnership with El Camino College to offer hybrid courses.

Dr. Wunder shared that he has been speaking with Dr. Brenda Thames, president of El Camino College, on partnership opportunities, although he believes that the first opportunity to add courses would probably be in the second semester of the 2022-23 school year.

Dr. Johnson also requested the board members consider equity in course offerings across campuses.

Mr. Boston thanked Dr. Johnson and Dr. Wunder for the thoughtful presentation. He believes the process would work well across the courses that Da Vinci will encounter. He also shared that he was not aware that a student could take one semester of a course at El Camino and obtain a full year's college credit. Educating families would be key.

Dr. Brann suggested looking at private schools for resources.

D. Presentation: Da Vinci Communications Update

Ms. D'Souza, principal of Da Vinci Communications, gave a look at the past year, which was the ninth year of its existence.

Communications currently has 525 students enrolled, and is the home of the FUTURES special education program.

She shared information about each of the four media-related CTE pathways (Multimedia Journalism, Media Production, Computer Science, and Marketing).

Multimedia Journalism focuses on internal DVC happenings.

Media Production focuses on external happenings. Ms. D'Souza shared videos from each of the first two pathways.

The Community Science pathway connects current students to alumni and industry professionals in animation, apps, robotics, music, and gaming.

The Marketing pathway's DECA team participates in leadership and service opportunities, and competes against other marketing students across the state.

The FUTURES students participated in Wolves @ Work, giving students experience with marketing, purchasing, packaging, and delivering subscription boxes to Da Vincians.

College Signing Day was celebrated at Communications, acknowledging all the seniors who are going to college or the military.

Ms. D'Souza wrapped up with a video clip of a 9th grade DVC student's TED Talk. She thanked the Board for its support of the small schools model.

Mr. Santiago thanked Ms. D'Souza for her presentation.

Brief discussion of the Coffee Bar ensued.

Dr. Webber noted that one of the DVC students who participated in the DECA program has been hired as a summer intern by her company.

E. Enrollment Update

Ms. Carla Levenson shared current and next year's enrollment numbers, saying that current numbers are pretty much on target with 2021-22 Second Interim revised budget projections.

37 Wiseburn residents returned to the District in 2021-22. About 8 out of 10 Wiseburn resident students take advantage of their Da Vinci Schools space guarantee. Ms. Levenson also shared the number of students from each of the surrounding districts who enrolled at Da Vinci. Board members remarked on the 700 LAUSD students enrolled at Da Vinci, the second highest number after Wiseburn residents. Mr. Meath inquired about disaggregating the numbers of TK-8 students vs. high school students in the numbers of students enrolling at Da Vinci. Mr. Meath and Dr. Brann would like to know how many of those students return to their home districts after matriculating from Connect TK-8.

For the 2022-23 school year, there are 1,899 unique applicants (who may or may not have applied to more than one Da Vinci school), including 997 for 9th grade. Da Vinci has

received 3,760 total applications for its schools. Recruitment and outreach continue, including virtual information meetings, collateral, virtual and in-person tours, and social media advertising.

F. Financial Update

Mr. Amato reviewed the April financials, sharing asset and liability figures on the consolidated balance sheet.

Brief discussion on accounts receivable and liquidity ratio ensued.

Mr. Amato went on to share the actual and projected revenue. LCFF revenue reflects reduced enrollment numbers.

The May Revise has been released, and the final budget should be passed in mid to late June. Mr. Amato has been using a conservative COLA figure of 6.5%, but the May Revise revealed that the number may be higher, up to 10%. Other good news include a one-time block grant of up to \$1,350 per ADA that could be a significant amount per school, and a hold harmless that will look backwards to 2020 or even 2019's ADA, which could further help finances.

G. Operations Update

Mr. Bravo spoke of the soccer field, saying that soil samples have been gathered. Mr. Bravo is working with Jonathan Nava, Wiseburn's Facilities Director, to get the RFP finalized. A consultation with the DSA inspector is being scheduled. Finally, a meeting with a scoreboard company has been set up.

Mr. Bravo thanked the El Segundo Police Department for their work with Da Vinci Schools, and shared that ESPD has been using Da Vinci facilities for new candidate written testing.

He also thanked El Segundo High School and El Segundo Unified School District for the use of their track field, and thanked Mira Costa High School for the use of their pool. Athletic Director D.R. Moreland arranged for those uses.

Regarding the CTE Studio, an electrical walkthrough has been conducted, as well as a fire hydrant flow test. Mr. Bravo has recently learned that a methane mitigation structure is required.

Graduation ceremonies are being held the week of June 6. Da Vinci Connect TK-8's promotion is being held on June 8 at 4 p.m. at the 201 N. Douglas St. campus.

BAF fans which ionize and cool are being tested to help reduce the use of air conditioning.

Discussion ensued on the gym lights that require replacing. The fixtures and bulbs are a single unit. The lights and the installation work have a warranty and the contractor is highly experienced and recommended.

The El Segundo pool is still closed. Mr. Bravo will obtain more information from the City of El Segundo and send it to the board members.

R. Ochoa left at 7:34 PM.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes for the April 27, 2022 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 04-27-22.

D. Brann seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

J. Morgan Aye

J. Webber Aye

D. Boston Aye

R. Santiago Aye

R. Ochoa Absent

D. Brann Aye

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Accept Da Vinci Schools Payment Register - April 2022

R. Santiago made a motion to accept the Da Vinci Schools April 2022 Payment Register.

B. Meath seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye

R. Ochoa Absent

D. Boston Aye

J. Morgan Aye

B. Meath Aye

D. Brann Aye

R. Santiago Aye

B. Approve Additional Lease for 550 Continental Blvd.

Mr. Boston inquired about the need for additional restrooms and whether or not it takes into account future growth. Mr. Bravo confirmed that that the figures take into account the full number of students that can be accommodated in the space.

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the additional lease for 550 Continental Blvd.

B. Meath seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

R. Santiago Aye

J. Webber Aye

D. Brann Aye

R. Ochoa Absent

J. Morgan Aye

D. Boston Aye

C. Approve Adoption of Canvas Learning Management System

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the adoption of the Canvas Learning Management System.

B. Meath seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Absent

R. Santiago Aye

J. Webber Aye

D. Brann Aye

B. Meath Aye

J. Morgan Aye

D. Boston Aye

D. Approve Girls' Volleyball Out-of-State Tournament Trip

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Girls' Volleyball Out-of-State Tournament Trip.

B. Meath seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Absent

B. Meath Aye

D. Boston Aye

R. Santiago Aye

J. Webber Aye

D. Brann Aye

J. Morgan Aye

E. Approve 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar.

B. Meath seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

R. Ochoa Absent

R. Santiago Aye

D. Boston Aye

J. Morgan Aye

D. Brann Aye

J. Webber Aye

F. Approve Budget for Gym Light Replacement

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Budget for Gym Light Replacement.

B. Meath seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye

R. Ochoa Absent

R. Santiago Aye

B. Meath Aye

J. Morgan Aye

D. Brann Aye

D. Boston Aye

V. Action Items

A. Accept Resignation of Board Trustee

D. Boston made a motion to accept.

R. Santiago seconded the motion.

Ms. Morgan shared that it has been her greatest pleasure to help Da Vinci and work with the Board.

Mr. Boston shared the sentiments that had been expressed by Dr. Brann and Dr. Wunder, saying that he appreciated Ms. Morgan's warmth and work.

Mr. Santiago concurred, wishing Ms. Morgan all the best in the future.

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

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Absent

R. Santiago Aye

J. Morgan Abstain

B. Meath Aye

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye
D. Boston Aye
D. Brann Aye

B. Approve Board Term Renewal for Trustee

D. Boston made a motion to approve the Board term renewal for Trustee Brian Meath.

J. Webber seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed Session entered at 7:57 p.m.

VII. Closing Items

A. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

Dr. Brann reported that no action had been taken in Closed Session.

B. Adjourn Meeting

J. Morgan made a motion to adjourn.

D. Boston seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: June 22, 2022.