APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday December 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Location
201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA, 90245

Da Vinci Schools ("DV") welcomes your participation at its Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Trustees ("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. The meeting is accessible online at https://zoom.us/j/97035654400, or dial (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID: 970 3565 4400.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members on the Da Vinci Schools website 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 twenty (20) 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, J. Webber, L. Heimov, R. Ochoa, R. Santiago

Trustees Absent
D. Boston

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
B. Meath

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth, B. Silvers, C. Levenson, Cecily Barnes, Chris Howell, Devin Ponciano (remote), E. D'Souza, G. Long (remote), Josh Beals, Kaden Schneider (remote), Kimora Evans (remote), L. Rodriguez (remote), M. Amato, M. Denniston (remote), M. Wunder, Milissa Sutton (remote), Okiki Ogunnaike (remote), Olivia Griffin (remote), S. Wai (remote), T. Christopher (remote), V. Rodriguez, William Bleier (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

R. Santiago made a motion to aprove.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call
L. Heimov Aye

D. Public Comments

None

II. Information

A. From the Board

Ms. Heimov wished everyone happy holidays and hoped for peace and joy around the world on this seventh night of Hanukkah.

Mr. Ochoa wished everyone a happy holiday. Noting his son is very happy in his first year at Da Vinci Science, he thanked the staff.

Mr. Santiago noted that his daughter is winding down her DV experience and awaiting responses from colleges. He is very appreciative of the schools. He commented that he recently toured the schools with the Google K12 Sales Manager, and although he has high expectations, he is continually amazed by the students' achievements. He thanked the staff for their work.

Dr. Webber shared that she attended the theatre arts performance the previous week, and that it was a wonderful experience. She noted that although the program is new, and there was only limited rehearsal time, it was an amazing performance. She thanked Ms. Levenson, Dr. Wunder, Mr. Bravo, and staff.

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

Dr. Wunder shared that the well-attended (estimated 1,800 people) Winter Concert was held the previous night in the Gym. Not only did the students put on a fantastic performance, but the staff accomplished a heroic feat of logistics, rearranging the venue from the El Segundo Performing Arts Center, which didn't have enough seats, to the Wiseburn Da Vinci Gym in a week's time.

He went on to discuss school safety, saying that in these troubling times, students sometimes make big mistakes, and no school is immune to that. Da Vinci is very well staffed in school safety. Dr. Wunder thanked El Segundo Police Chief Bermudez personally earlier in the day, and noted that the police department knows what is going on on Da Vinci campuses and are very responsive. Da Vinci regularly runs safety drills for students and staff, and small schools enable staff to know students well. Da Vinci has safe schools and he believes families and students can feel safe here.
Ms. Carla Levenson and Ms. Christina Joubert gave a community update, sharing Da Vinci students volunteered in December, and Da Vinci provided the Churro cart and photo booth at Aviation Elementary's Family Craft Night, and Hollyglen Elementary's Bear

Bazaar, where Da Vinci donated gift certificates and materials and supplies. Support totaled $3,443 and many volunteer hours.

Wiseburn families love meeting and speaking with Da Vinci students at these events, and the Da Vinci students also enjoy engaging with the Wiseburn community.

A monthly newsletter called "Life @ DV" launched in November, featuring eight articles about student volunteers, college & career readiness, Exhibition nights, and enrollment among others. Ms. Levenson encouraged the Board members to give feedback and contribute to the newsletter.

Ms. Joubert spoke about the performing arts events in December which featured two performances, two locations, 550 performers, and over 2,150 attendees in one week. The team is partnering with Wiseburn and WEF to expand performing arts at the high schools and build articulation from TK to 12th grades. Summer programming is being explored at this point.

Dr. Wunder also commented that Da Vinci alumni profiles will be shared in the future. Dr. Webber thanked Ms. Levenson and Ms. Joubert for their work in pulling together the community.

C. Financial Update

Ms. Vanessa Pineda from Christy White, Da Vinci's auditor, gave a presentation on the 2022-2023 annual audit report. There are four auditor opinions in the report: Financial Statements, Governmental Auditing Standards, Federal Single Audit, and K-12 State Compliance.

All areas received an unmodified opinion with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, which is the best opinion possible, resulting in a clean audit report. Ms. Pineda thanked Mr. Amato and his team for providing all the documents in a timely manner. Mr. Amato thanked the school site staff and partner CSMC for their assistance in getting the information in under deadline. The board thanked the auditor.

Mr. Amato shared the First Interim Report, which is a revised budget from the original budget, using October through November financials. He noted the revised budget surplus, which is lower than anticipated. Enrollment is close to the original budget, but Da Vinci Connect had a little slower enrollment start at the beginning of the year than expected but has since caught up and will enroll even more students in the second semester. ADA doesn't negatively impact revenue because of Mr. Amato's conservative estimates of the dollars per ADA the State pays Da Vinci Schools. ADA revenue is up by $115K.

Federal funding (Title I, II, and IV, ESSER) is on track for budget.

State funding (lottery, block grants, one-time grants) LCFF revenue is higher than anticipated (1.2%). A lot of one-time State grants are being used this year, as they are winding down. Some of the one-time funding will be used next school year. The Learning Recovery Block grant amount the State gave a year ago is not being reduced as much as feared, so Da Vinci has more revenue there than Mr. Amato conservatively projected. Those funds will be used next year. Prop 28 arts funding covers employees and non-personnel-related expenses for the performing arts program. Rental and interest income is also higher than projected.

Special Education expenses are higher than budgeted, outpacing the increase in special education revenue. This also contributes to the decreased surplus.

CTEIG funding is a State grant that is restricted for specific programs. Mr. Amato has just learned that all four Da Vinci schools grant applications have been fully funded (about $1.2M total), which will be used next school year.

Capital projects such as the Sandbox, the security camera system upgrade, and IT servers have used up some reserves. Out-of-pocket expenses for the CTE Studio are $3.3M.

Mr. Amato spoke of Da Vinci's two-year projections and the effect of the State budget's projected shortfall. He believes the State will used its large rainy day fund. He expects the originally projected 4% COLA will be cut. Da Vinci is also facing reduced future grant funding pools. He believes that the Da Vinci Schools will see breakeven finances for all except Connect, which should have a surplus.

D. Operations Update

Dr. Wunder shared the Mr. Bravo was absent due to a family matter before sharing information about the CTE Studio. He noted that the original $2.4M total budget has nearly quadrupled for the three-phase plan, and the State's calculation for grant funding is based on classrooms in Phase Two. Da Vinci is locked into the three-phase plan. There is a $7.5-10M decision facing the Board. Solid numbers will arrive in January.

Dr. Wunder went on to say that Chartwells has been an amazing partner, and he believes that a cooking kitchen at the 201 N. Douglas Street campus is in the best interests of the students, Da Vinci, and Wiseburn. Ms. Levenson was instrumental in obtaining $596K funding. However, the money will be forfeited if not used by June 2024. Dr. Wunder's team is inquiring with the State on a possible extension. Mr. Amato clarified that $425K of the funding must be used to complete the kitchen by June 2024, but that the team is hopeful it will get permission to start the project and use $425K by June, but knowing that the project will not be completed by then. It will require an additional $1.9M to complete the project.

Brief financial discussion ensued.

E. Student Board Update

B. Meath arrived at 6:46 PM.
Milissa Sutton, student board coordinator, introduced the presentation. After technical difficulties, the student update was moved further down the agenda, after the financial update.

Cecily Barnes gave the Connect K8 update, noting Exhibition, the due date for the second Learning Log, the K-12 Theater and Choir performances, and the date of Winter Break.

William Bleier gave the Connect High School update, sharing Exhibition Nights for the various grade levels, the 11th grade Graphic Design photography field trip, the S.A.G.E. Club's sock drive and Neurodiversity Club's canned food drive.

Okiki Ogunnaike gave the update for Communications, sharing the Winter Theater Showcase, POL prep, Community Dialogue, and Formal Clothing Drive for POLs.

Devin Ponciano gave the Science update, sharing the Winter Theater Showcase and Winter Music Concert. Seniors will not have POLs but will face Finals Week. The Improv Showcase, and Christmas Toy Drive, Youth & Government Club, and CEA Pathway activities filled the month.

Kimora Evans shared that10th and 12th grade Exhibition showcased the mural project fundraiser and boat races. POLs, Diversity Council Community Dialogue, blood drive, and the Diversity Mural/Hart House partnership engaged students in December.

Dr. Webber thanked the students, commenting that the schools month is packed with activities. Ms. Heimov and Mr. Meath agreed.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the November 14, 2023 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 11-14-23.
R. Santiago seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Heimov Aye
J. Webber Aye

Roll Call

D. Boston	Absent
R. Ochoa	Abstain
R. Santiago	Aye
B. Meath	Aye

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Accept the Da Vinci Schools Transaction Register - November 2023

L. Heimov made a motion to accept the November 2023 Da Vinci Schools Transaction Register.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
L. Heimov	Aye
D. Boston	Absent
R. Santiago	Aye

B. Approve Fiscal Year 2023-24 Da Vinci Schools First Interim Financial Reports for Da Vinci Communications, Design, Science, and Connect

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Da Vinci Schools First Interim Financial Reports for Da Vinci Communications, Design, Science, and Connect.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Santiago	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
L. Heimov	Aye
D. Boston	Absent
R. Ochoa	Aye
B. Meath	Aye

C. Approve Da Vinci Schools Fiscal Year 2022-23 Annual Audit Report

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Da Vinci Schools Fiscal Year 2022-23 Annual Audit Report.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Webber	Aye
B. Meath	Aye

Roll Call

R. Santiago Aye
D. Boston Absent
L. Heimov Aye
R. Ochoa Aye

D. Approve New Air Conditioning Installation at Connect TK-8

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the New Air Conditioning Installation at Connect TK-8.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Heimov Aye
B. Meath Aye
J. Webber Aye
R. Santiago Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
D. Boston Absent

E. Approve Final Additional Security Camera Project Cost

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Final Additional Security Camera Project Cost.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye
B. Meath Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
R. Santiago Aye
L. Heimov Aye
D. Boston Absent

F. Approve CharterLife Agreement for Employee Health Benefits for the 2024 Calendar Year

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the CharterLife Agreement for Employee Health Benefits for the 2024 Calendar Year.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye
R. Santiago Aye
B. Meath Aye
L. Heimov Aye
D. Boston Absent

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Aye

G. Approve One-Time Bonus for Staff

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the One-Time Bonus for Staff.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Boston Absent
R. Santiago Aye
J. Webber Aye
L. Heimov Aye
B. Meath Aye
R. Ochoa Aye

H. Approve Updated Da Vinci Schools Employee Handbook

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Updated Da Vinci Schools Employee Handbook.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Aye
J. Webber Aye
D. Boston Absent
R. Santiago Aye
B. Meath Aye
L. Heimov Aye

I. Approve Consultant Agreement with VFG Consulting

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Consultant Agreement with VFG Consulting.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye
J. Webber Aye
D. Boston Absent
R. Santiago Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
L. Heimov Aye

V. Closed Session

A.

Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed Session entered at 7:04 p.m.

VI. Closing Items

A. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session reconvened at 8:43 p.m.
Dr. Webber reported that no action had been taken in closed session.

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2024.