APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday January 22, 2025 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://davincischools-org.zoom.us/j/95261963725 or dial (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID: 952 6196 3725.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members on the Da Vinci Schools website www.davincischools.org.
3. Meeting held at 201 N. Douglas St., El Segundo, CA 90245 and 118 Prospect Quay, Point Pleasant London SW181PR.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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, D. Boston (remote), J. Webber (remote), L. Heimov, R. Ochoa, R. Santiago

Trustees Absent
None

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
B. Meath

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth, B. Silvers, E. D'Souza, E. Whalen (remote), G. Long (remote), Ian Lackey, L. Rodriguez (remote), L. Schaefer, M. Amato, M. Rainey, M. Wunder, R. Stoll, S. Wai (remote), S. Wallis, T. Christopher (remote), V. Bravo, V. Rodriguez

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I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Webber called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday Jan 22, 2025 at 6:13 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

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

Roll Call

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

D. Public Comments

None

II. Special Board Action

A. Approve Nomination of New Member of the Board of Trustees

Motion to approve the nomination of New Member Laura Schaefer to the Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

III. Information

A. From the Board

Ms. Heimov thanked the students and staff for their efforts in supporting the wildfire victims and community, and welcomed Ms. Schaefer.

Mr. Boston, Mr. Ochoa, and Mr. Santiago echoed Ms. Heimov's comments.

Mr. Santiago also noted that the Design, Communications, and Science student exhibitions he visited were impressive, and he congratulated the principals, staff, and students for their work.

Dr. Webber welcomed Ms. Schaefer, and shared that the Da Vinci community had donated over 2,000 meals and additional supplies to the wildfire victims and first responders. She also appreciated the amount of information the team released with resources and ways to help those in need.

B.

From the CEO/Superintendent

Dr. Wunder reiterated the board members' comments.
He also spoke of the changes in law and that he and the team are reviewing recommendations from various sources (the CDE, legal firms, etc.) and will protect students and staff to the fullest extent of the law.

C. From the Chief People Officer

None

D. Student Board Advisor Update

Coordinator William Bleier introduced the student update.
Awishkar Shrestha gave the Science update, sharing the Youth & Government Bill Hearing Night event in November, where students decided which bill to present in Sacramento; FRC kickoff and bonding events in December and Presentations of Learning (POLs) and finals in January.

Elyssa Chaidez shared the Design update, speaking about POLs in December where students exhibited projects such as a community-oriented shoe design project in Ethnic Studies, as well as other English, Math, and Art projects. She also noted the organization-wide meal drive for first responders and victims of the California wildfires in January.

Ethan Carter gave the Connect High School event, sharing photos from the 9th and 11th grade Exhibition in November, the Blood Drive and school fundraising bake sale in December, and supporting the Community Fire Relief Store in partnership with El Segundo's WWOO Concrete Outdoor Kitchen in January.

Zion Broadnax gave the Connect TK-8 update, speaking about the Fall Festival Winter Performing Arts showcase, Winter Exhibition, wildfire relief meal drive, and a separate produce giveaway to wildfire victims, and an ongoing animal shelter donation drive for wildfire victims.

Brian Winbush shared the Communications update, speaking about Exhibition in November, showcasing Media Production Pathway projects among many others, POLs featuring Biology's cancer research projects and U.S. History presidential debates, and the Student Task Force club event (partnering with Human Rights Watch) focusing on human rights violations.

Dr. Webber thanked the students for their presentations.

E. Financial Update

Vanessa Pineda of Christy White Associates gave the financial audit presentation. The audit for the year ending June 2024 covered four Da Vinci Schools (Communications, Design, Science, and Connect). Ms. Pineda and her team audited the financial statements, supplemental information like average daily attendance, instructional time, compliance, and organization structure.

The auditors' report gave an Unmodified Opinion (best possible opinion) with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies for all sections of the audit.

She thanked the Da Vinci staff and that of CSMC in providing all requested data in a timely manner and making the audit process smooth.

Dr. Wunder noted that a separate meeting will be held with just the auditor and three members of the Board: Dr. Webber, Mr. Meath, and Mr. Boston.
Mr. Amato gave the financial update, sharing P1 attendance versus First Interim projections. He noted that he makes conservative projections for attendance; current P1 attendance numbers exceed his projections. Brief discussion on measuring ADA ensued.

Mr. Amato shared the revised 2024-25 First Interim budget. He spoke of the four-year Golden State Pathways grant revenue which he has begun to include in his budget to support CTE Pathway staff salary expenses. The Charles Schwab Foundation grant will be included once spending plans for it are finalized.

Services and other operating expenses (utilities and transportation expenses) are coming in above budget. Utility companies' rates have increased well above the increases Mr. Amato projected and despite the efficiencies Da Vinci has achieved. More field trips than anticipated have resulted in higher transportation costs.

Mr. Amato described the designated funds for deferred maintenance, economic uncertainty, and ERC funds. He explained the release of restricted funds received in prior years and spoke briefly about deferred maintenance and the Board agenda item for approving the changes to the Board-designated net assets, which would adjust them back to the June 30, 2024 amounts and make the designations official. Da Vinci's reserves are healthy.

In other notes, the timeframe for an IRS audit has passed, allowing Mr. Amato to free up $1.4M that he has been holding. Brief discussion ensued on the timeframe for spending ERC funds and for IRS audits.

Mr. Amato gave the November financial update, sharing the balance sheet and noting the normal, expected delay in receiving special education and grant funding, depreciation, and accrued liabilities. He commented that Da Vinci and RISE use many common vendors who bill Da Vinci and RISE reimburses their share.

Last, Mr. Amato shared that the Fiscal Policy has been updated to explicitly reflect unallowed expenses (alcoholic beverages) for staff. The practice has always been in place, but is now explicitly in writing.

B. Meath arrived at 6:54 PM.

F. Operations Update

Mr. Bravo shared that on January 2, the cafe plans were submitted to DSA for approval. The kitchen plans have been finalized and will be submitted to DSA on February 7. DSA is running at approximately 6-8 weeks for review and approval. The intent is to get the cafe up and running as soon as possible. The kitchen is a more extended project.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the November 20, 2024 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 11-20-24.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Minutes of the December 2, 2024 Special Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Special Board Meeting on 12-02-24.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C.

Approve Minutes of the December 6, 2024 Special Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Special Board Meeting on 12-06-24.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Consent Agenda

A. Accept the Da Vinci Schools Transaction Register - November, 2024

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

Roll Call

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

B. Ratify 2025 Employee Health Benefit Rates

R. Santiago made a motion to ratify the 2025 Employee Health Benefit Rates.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve FY 2023-24 Da Vinci Schools Audit Report

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the FY 2023-24 Da Vinci Schools Audit Report.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve FY 2024-25 First Interim Reports for Da Vinci Communications, Connect, Design, and Science

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the FY 2024-25 First Interim Reports for Da Vinci Communications, Connect, Design, and Science.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Board-Designated Net Assets Changes

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Board-Designated Net Assets Changes.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Da Vinci Schools Fiscal Policy Update

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Da Vinci Schools Fiscal Policy Update.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
R. Santiago Aye
L. Heimov Aye

G. Ratify Agreement with Spectrum Enterprise for Internet Service

R. Santiago made a motion to ratify the agreement with Spectrum Enterprise for Internet Service.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye
L. Heimov Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
D. Boston Aye
R. Santiago Aye

H. Approve Consultant Agreement with Culture Consulting Solutions for January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Consultant Agreement with Culture Consulting Solutions for January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approve Consultant Agreement with Kat Kouot

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Consultant Agreement with Kat Kouot.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

J. Approve Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Qualifications Policy

K. Approve 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Communications

Mr. Boston would like a discussion on the data for Science and Design. Mr. Santiago would like to be included.
R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Communications.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

L. Approve 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Connect

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Connect.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

M. Approve 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Design

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Design.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa	Aye
J. Webber	Aye
D. Boston	Aye
R. Santiago	Aye
L. Heimov	Aye

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

N. Approve 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Science

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2024-25 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Science.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

O. Approve Overnight Field Trip for Da Vinci Science CEA Honors Students

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Overnight Field Trip for Da Vinci Science CEA Honors Students.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

P. Approve Overnight Field Trip to the CCSA Student Pitch Competition for Connect High Students

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Overnight Field Trip to the CCSA Student Pitch Competition for Connect High Students.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Q.

Approve Revised 2024-25 Board Meeting Calendar

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the Revised 2024-25 Board Meeting Calendar.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed session entered at 7:08 p.m.

VII. Closing Items

A. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session resumed at 7:56 p.m.
Dr. Webber reported that no action was 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 7:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2025.