APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday May 28, 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/91474105401 or dial (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID: 914 7410 5401.
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, J. Webber, L. Heimov, L. Schaefer, R. Ochoa, R. Santiago

Trustees Absent
None

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth, C. Levenson (remote), M. Amato, M. Wunder, R. Stoll, S. Wallis, V. Bravo, V. Rodriguez

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I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Wohlwerth called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

J. Webber made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
D. Boston seconded the motion.
The agenda was approved with an amendment noted that the Student Services presentation by Erin Whalen was postponed.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Boston	Aye
L. Heimov	Aye

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye
B. Meath Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
R. Santiago Aye
L. Schaefer Aye

D. Public Comments

None

E. Presentation: Student Recognition

Hayley Hutt, field representative for Assembly Member Tina McKinnor of the 61st District, recognized Connect High School student Ava De Jesus for her many accomplishments in journalism, advocacy, and youth civic engagement.

Ava thanked everyone who helped her on her journey.

II. Information

A. From the Superintendent

Dr. Wunder shared that two students from the Da Vinci community were involved in a scooter collision with a car, and one student did not survive.

B. From the Board

Ms. Heimov extended the Board's condolences to the family of the student who passed.

Ms. Schaefer expressed her condolences as well, and also stated that she wasn't feeling well and was attending the meeting remotely..

Dr. Webber noted that graduations are right around the corner.

Ms. Heimov reiterated congratulations to student Ava De Jesus for her recognition from Assembly Member Tina McKinnor.

Mr. Santiago expressed condolences to the family of the student, congratulated Ava De Jesus, and shared that he looks forward to the graduations.

C. From the Chief People Officer

Ms. Rodriguez shared that she would update the Board on the Alder Residency program at a future meeting when graduates of the program could be present, and mentioned that Da Vinci had just hired three Alder residents, all of whom are familiar with Da Vinci, as they are all alumni.

D.

Student Board Advisor Update

Coordinator William Bleier introduced the student updates for April and May.

Benjamin Chan shared the Da Vinci Science update, speaking of College Admissions workshops, SAT day, Cal Poly SLO and Claremont College field trips, the Civil Engineering SoFI Stadium tour, Exhibition, and the AAPI Community Dialogue event.

Connect High School student Ethan Carter shared April happenings like Community Learning Day, a Belkin field trip, and May events like the Track & Field Bay League finals, and 10th and 12th grade Exhibitions focused on ancient civilizations and the U.S. political process, respectively. Coming up in June, Connect High students look forward to the End-of-Year Carnival.

Brian Winbush gave the Communications update, noting the Media Production pathway's Warner Brothers Studios field trip, the 10th grade Exhibition where students showcased their World History, English, Chemistry, and Math projects, the 12th grade Exhibition where work from Media Production, Marketing, Journalism, and Computer Science pathways were on full display. May also brought the AAPI Community Dialogue, and Senior Decision Day and Awards Night.

Da Vinci Design's update was given by Josiah Moody. He spoke of 9th, 10th, and 11th grade level themes on Exhibition Night: social justice, global citizenship, and the Individual in the Community. He also shared Cal State Long Beach and Woodbury University field trips, Senior Showcase, and the QSU-hosted Community Dialogue in honor of the upcoming Pride month.

Mr. Santiago thanked the students for their final updates of the year.

E. Presentation: Student Services

This presentation was postponed.

F. Financial Update

Mr. Amato shared the 2024-25 P2 Attendance numbers which are reported to the State to determine ADA funding. Attendance and ADA slightly exceeded his Second Interim projections.

He then shared the Da Vinci Schools Balance Sheet. The organization's cash position is healthy. Accounts Receivable are at normal levels. Deferred revenue from grants and other sources have been received but are being held for future use. Net Assets are currently a negative number until the deferred revenue begins to be used. A Local Revenue variance is due to the small donated investment which Mr. Amato leaves untouched.

The certificated salaries variance is due to hiring more substitute teachers than projected. Mr. Amato projects the classified salaries will come in under budget, due to volatility and hiring gaps related to academic coaches and paraeducators.

Mr. Boston inquired about the Year End calculations. Mr. Amato does not have April results, but is not concerned.

Regarding the Governor's May Revise update, Mr. Amato shared that next year's final revised COLA percentage is 2.3%, slightly less than his projections, but certainly better than this year's 1.08%.

The future beyond next year is very uncertain. The State is anticipating a 3% COLA, a healthy outlook. There is one deferral in the May Revision: LCFF will be deferred for one month, from June to July, which Mr. Amato is not concerned about due to Da Vinci's strong cash position.

The State projected a small one-time discretionary grant of $300 per student, or about $735K total across all Da Vinci School sites. The funds could be used over time or all in one year.

Brief discussion about the discretionary grant ensued. The AMIMBG (Arts, Music, Instructional Materials Block Grant) is automatically given, unrestricted, no application needed.

Mr. Santiago inquired about budgeting for new positions/pay scales on the agenda. Mr. Amato responded that he is in the process of budgeting and is including those new positions as part of the overall budget. He is not concerned about sustaining the budget next year. He plans for the most conservative surplus in the budget possible. Dr. Wunder clarified that existing staff will fill the "new" positions; it will mean a slight bump in those salaries due to increased responsibility. The positions they are leaving are not being backfilled.

Mr. Meath inquired about guidance on Federal funding for next year. Mr. Amato noted cuts to federal grant programs in which Da Vinci doesn't participate. Da Vinci's main federal funding comes in title funds: special education and meal programs.

Mr. Meath also inquired about the in lieu of property tax payment status. Mr. Amato clarified the the payment schedule.

Mr. Boston inquired about the staff position changes on the agenda and if the changes were driven by concerns about risk/vulnerability and upgrading infrastructure, or whether it was about promoting people. Dr. Wunder shared that it's a combination of increased technological complexity and demand and promoting current staff and compensating their increased workload.

Further discussion ensued around the number of student and staff Chromebooks and laptops and lease vs. buy considerations.

Mr. Amato then to briefly explained the ERC funds item up for Board approval. The ERC grant from the IRS was parsed over three quarters (FY 24-25, FY 25-26, and FY 26-27), with three audit deadlines. The first audit deadline has passed without audit, therefore Mr. Amato would like the Board to un-designate the first section of funds, since they are now free and clear to be used in general funds or earmarked for something specific. The next audit deadline is July 15, 2025.

G. Operations Update

Mr. Bravo gave the update, sharing that he expected the DSA status report on the Cafe plans by the next morning. The next step would be to send the project out to bid. The project entails setting the floor, ceiling work, installing counters and sink. Work would have to be done after school or during breaks. Unfortunately, due to the DSA delay, the project cannot be completed in the summer, as was hoped.

Graduation ceremonies will be held in the Gym, considering the noise of the parking structure construction next door.

Work on the WDV Baseball field at the Connect TK-8 campus. The sod requires three months to take hold, during which time it cannot be used.

Dr. Wunder shared that there was an oversight in the plans submitted, and that there is an additional potential cost to install a garden for the students.

III. Special Board Action

A. Approve Extension of Board Term

J. Webber made a motion to approve.
D. Boston seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the May 8, 2025 Special Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

R. Ochoa made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Special Board Meeting on 05-08-25.
R. Santiago seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Consent Agenda

A. Accept the Da Vinci Schools Transaction Register - March, 2025

D. Boston made a motion to accept the Da Vinci Schools March, 2025 transaction register.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Un-Designation of Employee Retention Credit (ERC) Funds

D. Boston made a motion to approve the un-designation of Employee Retention Credit (ERC) Funds.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Aye

C. Approve the Pursuit of Federal Title I, II, and IV Funding for 2025-26 via the Consolidated Application for Da Vinci Communications, Design, Science, and Connect

D. Boston made a motion to approve the pursuit of Federal Title I, II, and IV Funding for 2025-26 via the Consolidated Application for Da Vinci Communications, Design, Science, and Connect.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve Revised Pay Scale for the Senior Operations Administrator Position

D. Boston made a motion to approve the revised pay scale for the Senior Operations Administrator Position.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Work Experience Education Teacher Position and Pay Scale

D. Boston made a motion to approve the Work Experience Education Teacher Position and Pay Scale.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

R. Santiago Aye
B. Meath Aye
J. Webber Aye
L. Schaefer Aye

F. Approve Executive Director of Technology Position and Pay Scale

D. Boston made a motion to approve the Executive Director of Technology position and pay scale.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approve Assistant Director of Technology Position and Pay Scale

D. Boston made a motion to approve the Assistant Director of Technology position and pay scale.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Ratify Agreement between Da Vinci Schools and Biola University to Provide Student Teaching Placements

D. Boston made a motion to ratify the agreement between Da Vinci Schools and Biola University to provide student teaching placements.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Santiago Aye
L. Heimov Aye

Roll Call

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

I. Approve Updated Independent Education Evaluation Policy

D. Boston made a motion to approve the updated Independent Education Evaluation Policy.
B. Meath seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed session entered at 7:07 p.m.

VII. Closing Items

A. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session reconvened at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Santiago 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 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: Wednesday, June 25, 2025.