APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High)

Date and Time
Wednesday March 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

- 201 N. Douglas St. El Segundo, CA 90245
- Da Vinci RISE High – Richstone
  13634 Cordary Avenue Hawthorne, CA 90250
- Da Vinci RISE High – A Place Called Home
  2901 S. Central Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90011

Da Vinci Schools: LA County ("DVLAC") 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 DVLAC 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/93171615402 or dial (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID: 931 7161 5402.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members on the Da Vinci Schools: LA County website https://dvrise.davincischools.org/.
3. Meeting held at 201 N. Douglas St., El Segundo, CA 90245, Da Vinci RISE High – Richstone 13634 Cordary Avenue Hawthorne, CA 90250, and Da Vinci RISE High – A Place Called Home 2901 S. Central Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90011.
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
C. McCullough, C. Taylor, T. Johnstone

Trustees Absent
L. Jennings

Guests Present
J. Crouch, M. Amato (remote), N. Lara, V. Bravo, V. Rodriguez

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I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

C. McCullough called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday Mar 19, 2025 at 6:05 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

C. Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
C. Taylor	Aye

D. Public Comments

No public comments.

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Tom Johnstone stated that it was great to see everyone. Carla McCullough agreed.

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

No comments.

C. From the Assistant Superintendents

No comments.

D. RISE High Update

Principal Naomi Lara reviewed Feb/March demographics. Hiring of third Special Education teacher has been helfpul. Tom Johnstone mentioned that the number of students with IEPs dropped. Naomi agreed and stated that there were a few withdrawals.

ADA average of 72.8% for the school year. ADA percentages from 12/2024 and 1/2025 has been the highest since 2018-19.

Naomi shared Project-based learning projects, such as English student story boards, Real World Learning experiences, such as the Cancer Care Project in partnership with Kaiser Permanente.

Chris Taylor asked about the Side Hustle Economics Project and if this was created by teachers. Naomi stated that this was part of the learning from the SpringBoard conference.

Naomi presented CTE Updates - In partnership with Music to the Ears Foundation, RISE is developing a digital media pathway. We are currently in the planning portion of the grant. In partnership with Welfie and Dr. Emily Green, we are developing a Mental Health Pathway which includes a Peer to Peer program. Members of our team have already been trained as Peer to Peer trainers.

Naomi presented State and Benchmark Assessments - We are removing the winter NWEA testing and prioritizing CAASPP and CAST assessments. The focus will be on participation. Chris Taylor asked what made students anxious about these tests. Naomi mentioned that there are multiple reasons including students having questions as to whether the test is beneficial or consequential to them or if it is more important to the school. Additionally students have expressed test anxiety and may be fearful of receiving low test scores. Dean Jonathan Crouch stated that it was helfpul when he explained the "why" to students and asked them to focus on trying their best. Tom Johnstone stated that when students see incremental growth, it is motivating for them. Carla McCullough mentioned that the names of the testing bands may be changing for this upcoming test adminstration to change the label from below basic to different language, Carla also discussed the possibility of bringing a radio station on campus during a CAASPP Celebration Day and it would also help with enrollment. Naomi discussed incentive plans for assessments.

Naomi presented Senior Update: Senior Activities such as Paint and Sip are starting. Students are now receiving college acceptance letters.

E. Presentation: Midyear LCAP for 2024-25 School Year

Highlights: ADA has increased **59% (107/180) of students enrolled more than 30 days in Q1-Q2 2024-25 had either an ADA greater than 94.3% (22%: 40/180) OR improved their attendance rate from the previous year (37%: 67/180).**

Graduation rate has increased by 14.6% from the previous year, 51% of Foster students, 69% of homeless students and 27% of justice involved youth enrolled as seniors graduated within 5 years. RISE is still in the red color status. Naomi shared information about the Differentiated Assistance process work with Kern County Superintendent of Schools, the root cause analysis and identification of plan of action was based on improving graduation rates and centered on improving 1:1 meetings with students and advisors to better support graduation progress tracking and interventions.

Focus Areas: ELA and Math CAASPP scores declined - 72.1 points from the year before for ELA and 27.7 points from the year before for Math. One if the things that hurts RISE is the decrease in participation rates because students who do not take the test automatically get a negative score. Tom Johnstone asked if there was a chart that explained the points system for the assessments. Naomi stated that she would work with Gloria to get this information. Carla McCullough asked if anyone has disaggregated the data to see if there is a correlation between lenght of enrollment, ADA and scores. Naomi shared that as a result of decrease in CAASPP ELA and Math proficiency, RISE

is again eligible for Year 2 of Differentiated Assistance and will be continuing the work with Tammy Gabel from Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Our work this year will focus on improving ELA and Math proficiency.

College and Career Readiness is the other focus area. CTE courses and pathways will be key in this area because taking a CTE course indicates that students are more ready for college and career, RISE hopes to see an increase in CCI preparedness once CTE pathway courses are rolled out.

Spotlight on Practices: Naomi spoke about Advisory Practices, Professional Development, and Partnerships with Pass it Forward.

F. Financial Update

CFO Michael Amato presented the second interim reports. Enrollment and ADA have been strong. Average ADA for the year is 69.5%. ADA projection is 118. If we hit 123, this will mean an additional $75k. Projecting lower overall revenue, reduction in expenses, and pushing grants to next year. Total revenue down by $225k. We are down in Personnel expenses due to how staffing went this year. Operating Expenses are projected to be lower, specifically with consulting services. Net change from operations from 37k to 112k. Chris Taylor asked about grant and one time funds. Michael reviewed these specific line items. Total of $1,117,000. Chris Taylor asked about timing for planning budget for 25-26. Michael stated that this is already in progress. Tom Johnstone asked about federal funding and Dept of Education. Michael stated that we do not know if or when federal funding will be cut. RISE received about 10% federal funding.

23-24 Tax Return is completed and has been filed. Tom Johnstone stated that he was shocked to see that Hop Skip Drive was higher than the cost of facilities.

Michael presented information regarding the 3 year Annual Audit Contract Renewal.

G. Facilities Update

Vicente Bravo stated that benches and canopies were added for students at Richstone. The van is doing great. It has been used extremely well for RISE. Kynelle is our new safety officer at APCH and we are working with the APCH team to train and collaborate.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the January 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

C. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 01-15-25.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

IV. Action Items

A. Accept December 2024 and January 2025 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent

B. Approve FY 2024-25 Second Interim Financial Report

C. Taylor made a motion to approve.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Taylor	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent

C. Approve 2023-24 Tax Return

C. McCullough made a motion to approve.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent

D. Approve 3-Year Renewal Annual Audit Contract with Christy White, Inc. for 2024-25 through 2026-27

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.

C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

E. Approve Comprehensive School Safety Plan for Da Vinci RISE High

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
Carla had two questions - Section 12 on Immigration and Table of Contents - grammatical error
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Closing Items

A. Reconvene to Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session reconvened at 7:40 pm, no motions were made.

B. Adjourn Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to adjourn.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. Lara