APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday August 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location
Board Room, 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/93640138845 or dial (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID: 936 4013 8845.
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 (remote), D. Boston, L. Heimov, L. Schaefer, R. Ochoa, R. Santiago

Trustees Absent
J. Webber

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
L. Heimov

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth, C. Levenson (remote), Edwin Villalobos, Joshua Beals, L. Rodriguez, M. Amato, M. Rainey, M. Wunder, S. Navarro, S. Wallis, V. Bravo, V. Rodriguez

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I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Santiago called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Thursday Aug 28, 2025 at 6:04 PM.

B. Record Attendance

D. Boston made a motion to allow Trustee Brian Meath to participate remotely per California AB 2449.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Santiago	Aye
L. Heimov	Absent

Roll Call

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

C. Approve the Agenda

R. Ochoa made a motion to approve.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Public Comments

None
L. Heimov arrived at 6:07 PM.

II. Information

A. From the Board

Mr. Ochoa welcomed everyone back from summer and thanked the Real World Learning team for offering opportunities in the summer. His son took advantage of the UCLA Outset summer medicine program and enjoyed it.

Mr. Santiago shared that his son Sai took advantage of Da Vinci's Certificated Nursing Assistant (CNA) program, earning his CNA certificate as a high school junior.

B. From the Superintendent

Dr. Wunder thanked the Board and the staff who work hard to welcome back students.

C. From the Chief People Officer

Ms. Rodriguez thanked the Board for supporting Da Vinci's university partnerships, sharing that there are currently 13 counselor student teacher placements across Da Vinci Schools. In addition, we have hired five teachers who completed their Alder residency at Da Vinci, and because of that residency, they have the experience and knowledge of two-

year Da Vinci teachers. Da Vinci has also hired one Alder resident from Pepperdine, so in total six Da Vinci teachers have been hired through Alder.

D. Financial Update

Mr. Amato shared the year-end 2024-25 unaudited actuals as of June 30, 2025. The balance sheet reflects a healthy cash balance, largely due to grant revenue. Fixed assets also are up from the prior 2023-24 year; Da Vinci Schools purchased more fixed assets related to capital projects. Deferred revenue will be spent in 2025-26 and beyond. Mr. Amato's revenue projections were very close to the actuals - about a $700 difference.

Designated funds go toward deferred maintenance, future economic uncertainty (20% of total operating expenses), and ERC funds being held until the IRS audit period has passed. Undesignated funds include $2.8M in released ERC funds and remaining funds after designation.

Mr. Amato went on to share grant funding figures, citing various STEM grants from Northrop Grumman, Chevron, and a State supply chain assistance grant which helps to offset rising costs for the meal program.
It was a strong, positive 2024-25 year.

2025-26 has also been positive thus far. The State finalized its budget in early July. Additional funds have been allocated for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block grant that was awarded several years ago. Mr. Amato did not budget for this as it was uncertain, and will use this revenue in a future year. The State also allocated a new discretionary block grant which will also be used in a future year. Da Vinci will also receive additional State funding for transitional Kindergarten and performing arts.

Mr. Boston asked how daily attendance is looking, acknowledging that there are only about 10 days of data. Dr. Wunder shared that the Connect High School program is short, but overall, enrollment is going well. Mr. Amato added that the first 30 days' attendance data will be shared at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Santiago inquired about discretionary grant funds, and Mr. Amato shared that the Learning Recovery Emergency Block grant is a little more restricted, but still supports sustainability. The second block grant is new, and completely discretionary, so it may be used on rising health care costs, operational costs, vendor costs, etc.

Dr. Wunder commented that Ms. Levenson shared that over $12M has been raised since January 2024. A lot of it is State funding, but it is a testament to the work going on at the school sites. Mr. Amato noted that Da Vinci will be applying for newly-replenished yearly State CTE and Strong Workforce funds.

Ms. Rainey shared that Da Vinci is currently in the 94% - 98% daily attendance range. Overall 96% attendance. She shared that the team is working on expanding to the other Da Vinci sites a short-term independent study initiative that was implemented at Design last year, and a new State attendance recovery program for classroom-based schools. The Data team is working hard on creating systems to capture the data to allow Da Vinci to benefit from the new State program. Last year, Da Vinci implemented a short-term independent study program last September at classroom-based Communications, Science, and Design. Last year, they recovered 2,459 days of attendance. Design alone recovered 1,579 days.

Ms. Schaefer inquired about the typical range of attendance at other schools. Mr. Amato commented that Da Vinci is typically somewhere between 94-96% attendance, depending on the school and year, but he believes other schools have challenges where they are at 92-93%. One or two percent can make a lot of funding difference.

Ms. Schaefer then inquired about the predictability of recurring and one-time State funds and Mr. Amato's approach. Mr. Amato commented the State is clear on recurring vs. one-time grant programs. Da Vinci uses recurring funding for staffing. Some State funds are specified for certain purposes and have rules for spending. The complexity of the work means that Mr. Amato and his team must be meticulous in closing the books, which takes much of the Business Office's dedicated time.

Dr. Wunder noted the constant risk of re-occurring funds not re-occurring, thus Da Vinci's solid economic uncertainty reserves are helpful. Mr. Amato noted the spending rules on the performing arts funds, where 80% must go toward staffing, and while there may be a one-year carryover, it is "use it or lose it" funding. Mr. Amato and the team make staffing decisions to make the most of the funds.

E. Operations Update

Mr. Bravo shared updates of the Del Aire construction project, showing some photos of the work, including the lunch area with decomposed granite, the play area, the garden, and the new baseball field. Some maintenance training will be conducted, and the fencing will be completed. The Success Learning Center and Futures Plus buildings are planned to be completed in November/December. In the meantime, the students are being housed at the 201 campus and the Skybox.

Change orders and the project budget were discussed. $57,500 is Da Vinci's share of the total change order, bringing the total project cost to $274,000. Mr. Amato originally budgeted $280,000, therefore the project is slightly under budget. However, the overall project cost is higher than the originally approved budget. $1.3M total cost.

Mr. Bravo anticipates the Cafe project going out to bid in a couple of weeks, now that DSA has released the project. Mr. Amato reminded the Board that the Cafe project was

initiated by Health Department requirements on flooring, ceiling, sinks, etc. He expects the cost will be higher than the budget originally approved a year ago.

Brief discussion on Da Vinci's food service management partner ensued. The partner contract is put out for bid every five years.

F. Presentation: Goals & Priorities 2025-26

Dr. Wunder shared that instead of Goals & Priorities, he will discuss the more timely topic of enrollment.

He commented Connect High School needs to grow enrollment, and there is an opportunity to expand the space at the 550 Continental Blvd. campus that Connect High School occupies. CHS currently has about 70-75% of the ground floor there. 4,722 sq. feet are up for lease. Other potential tenants are looking at the space. The landlord is willing to work with Da Vinci. Dr. Wunder and his team will seek the Board's authorization to research and negotiate the terms of the lease acquisition, working with a few Board members to support/negotiate terms. Dr. Wunder and Mr. Amato also seek the Board's authorization to sign a lease and ratify it at a future Board meeting only if it is necessary to move quickly. The Board President and/or Treasurer will be kept informed.

This expansion will allow for 30 more students, however, Dr. Wunder and the team are looking at a partnership with ASU for a four-day-on-campus program, which should be attractive to potential Connect High students.

Ms. Schaefer inquired about the revenue per student and the cost for staffing. Mr. Amato responded that it is about $14,000 LCFF per high school student. Ms. Rainey shared that Connect High School is still in growth mode, and staffing can be scaled once student enrollment reaches about 500. The team believes they can run the two-day and four-day models with similar courses and shared staffing. How the programs are staffed depends on partnerships and the curriculum delivery model.

Dr. Wunder shared that Arizona State University works hard to recruit students from California, purchasing the Herald building and the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in Downtown L.A. They are also seeking accreditation for a school of education in California. ASU has a robust high school dual enrollment program and has been partnering with Connect High school to give students college credits in high school. Ms. Rainey noted that CHS is still in its toddlerhood. It takes a while to gain trust and a reputation for a hybrid program. It is a very sustainable model, and there are Connect families who fully support the two-day model, and others who really want a four-day model, so the interest is there.

Mr. Boston inquired if students would start mid-year. Ms. Rainey shared that Connect believes it can bring new students on in January. The construction time will allow the staff to build a robust four-day program.

Mr. Amato noted the current lease is up in a year, so it will need to either be renegotiated, or the school will have to look elsewhere. There is an opportunity here to negotiate the lease and bring in more students.

Brief discussion ensued on ASU's desire to put their name on a high school and to open a graduate school of education.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the July 23, 2025 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 07-23-25.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Board Action

A. Approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for the 2025-2026 School Year

R. Ochoa made a motion to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for the 2025-2026 School Year.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Consent Agenda

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

L. Heimov made a motion to accept the Da Vinci Schools June 2025 transaction register.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve FY 2024-25 Unaudited Actual Financials for Da Vinci Communications, Connect, Design, and Science

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the FY 2024-25 Unaudited Actual Financial for Da Vinci Communications, Connect, Design, and Science.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve Change Order Expense for Del Aire Summer Construction Project

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Change Order Expense for Del Aire Summer Construction Project.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

D. Approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Communications

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Communications.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Connect

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Connect.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Design

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Design.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Aye
D. Boston Aye
R. Santiago Aye

Roll Call

J. Webber Absent
L. Schaefer Aye
B. Meath Aye
L. Heimov Aye

G. Approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Science

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Expenditure of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds for Da Vinci Science.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Ratify Master Contract with Summit View Westside for NPS Placement

L. Heimov made a motion to ratify the Master Contract with Summit View Westside for NPS Placement.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approve Technical Theatre Manager Position and Pay Scale

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Technical Theatre Manager Position and Pay Scale.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Heimov Aye
B. Meath Aye

Roll Call

R. Santiago Aye
J. Webber Absent
R. Ochoa Aye
L. Schaefer Aye
D. Boston Aye

J. Ratify Agreement for Consultant to Provide Math Support Across All Da Vinci Schools

L. Heimov made a motion to ratify the agreement for Consultant to Provide Math Support across all Da Vinci Schools.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

K. Approve 2025-2026 Report of Alternative Authorization of Teaching Assignments

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Report of Alternative Authorization of Teaching Assignments.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

L. Approve Agreements between Da Vinci Schools and National University to Provide Field Placement and Practicum Opportunities for Student Teachers and Counselors

L. Heimov made a motion to approve Agreements between Da Vinci Schools and National University to provide Field Placement and Practicum Opportunities for Student Teachers and Counselors.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

M. Approve Revised High School Graduation Requirements Policy

L. Heimov made a motion to approve the Revised High School Graduation Requirements Policy.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

N. Approve Da Vinci Schools Policy Regarding Educational Services for Students in Hospital or Health Facility

Brief discussion clarifying grammatical language ensued.
L. Heimov made a motion to approve with clarifying amendments the Da Vinci Schools Policy Regarding Educational Services for Students in Hospital or Health Facility.
L. Schaefer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed session convened at 7:22 p.m.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session reconvened at 7:59 p.m.
Mr. Santiago reported that no action was taken in closed session.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: Wednesday, September 24, 2025.