APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Monday July 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location
Mona Lisa, 201 N Douglas St, El Segundo, CA 90245

Additional Teleconference Location:

192 Country Club Drive Avila Beach, CA 93424

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/94469788777 or dial (669)444-9171 and use Meeting ID: 944 6978 8777.
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
C. McCullough, C. Taylor, L. Jennings, T. Johnstone (remote)

Trustees Absent
None

Guests Present
Joshua Beals (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Rainey, M. Wunder (remote), S. Ehuan-Avila, V. Bravo

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I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Jennings called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Monday Jul 21, 2025 at 6:08 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve the Agenda.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Public Comments

No members of the public.

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

The board formally acknowledged the departure of **Chris Taylor**, expressing immense gratitude for his service. Lida, Carla, and Tom all lauded his diligent contributions, particularly how his non-education background brought a valuable, fresh perspective, focusing on metrics and impactful changes. Chris was presented with a small token of appreciation. He shared that it had been an honor to serve and that contributing to the lives of the students, who reminded him of himself, brought him great pleasure. Chris affirmed his need to depart but expressed a desire to remain in touch and participate remotely when possible. Matthew Wunder also later mentioned the possibility of Chris remaining on the board pending legal review.

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

Matthew Wunder had no updates to report, other than the potential for Chris Taylor to remain on the board.

C. RISE High Update

Board Meeting Preparations and Curriculum: Naomi is finalizing plans for the upcoming **board meeting on August 13th**, where they will present on curriculum instruction and an overview of their "Road to Renewal" with major benchmarks. This will be a more comprehensive presentation, especially for new board members.

Enrollment and Outreach Efforts: Current enrollment stands at approximately **136 students**. Nine additional prospective students from the referral list have submitted applications, bringing the total to 145. To boost numbers, information sessions will be held at both the Richstone site (July 22nd) and A Place Called Home (next Thursday), and application support will be provided for re-enrollment. They are actively exploring multiple strategies to increase enrollment.

Operational Adjustments and Virtual Support: Carla McCullough raised the need for a **contingency plan**. Naomi is collaborating with Michelle to rework processes using Subject.com to enhance fully virtual and asynchronous models. They've also revised the bell schedule to build in more instructional time and dedicated periods for asynchronous/remote student support, aiming for a sustainable schedule where teachers can support virtual learners. They are also working with Sharefest to provide virtual mentorship on Wednesdays.

Capacity: Naomi clarified that the APCH site has an in-person capacity of **50-60 students (100-130 virtually)**, while the Richstone site can accommodate a maximum of **85 students (45 preferred on-site)** for in-person/virtual learning.

D. Financial Update

Fiscal Year End (June 30, 2025): Preliminary unaudited actuals are close to second interim projections, showing a net increase to net assets of approximately $113,000. Final numbers will be presented in August.

Grant Funding: The Deutsch Foundation awarded an **$80,000 grant** for general operating support, geared towards increasing enrollment and addressing chronic absenteeism. This grant was not in the 2025-2026 budget but will be incorporated through revision.

State Funding: Everything is on track for 2025-2026 state funding. There is a **one-month payment deferral from June 1st to July 1st, 2026**, which will not affect their financial situation. They continue to monitor potential impacts from wildfire costs and federal funding changes, and are watching **AB 84 and SB 441** regarding non-classroom-based schools.

Federal Title Funds: The federal government intends to withhold Title I, II, and IV funds. While this is being challenged in court (with ten states sponsoring a bill), Michael views it as a temporary withholding. The **$60,000 in question will not impact cash flow**, as it's a small percentage of the overall $4 million budget. Lida requested a historical distribution schedule for Title funds at the next meeting. Michael reiterated that while the budget may need revision, it is not reliant on federal funds, ensuring cash flow stability.

New Site Exploration: No new updates on the potential new site. Michael will provide an update at the next meeting.

E. Facilities Update

Transportation and Vehicle Maintenance: All current van maintenance, including tire care and full point inspections, is up to date, preparing them for the next year.

Vehicle Expansion: They are exploring the acquisition of **two new vans**, one for RISE and another for 201, due to high demand for athletics, field trips, real-world learning, internships, and student transportation.

Cost-Effectiveness: Vicente highlighted the cost-effectiveness of using vans for transportation compared to renting buses and is analyzing the savings. More staff members are also being trained as drivers.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the June 24, 2025 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

L. Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 06-24-25.
C. Taylor seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Action Items

A. Accept May 2025 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

C. Taylor made a motion to Accept May 2025 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Approve 2025-2026 Da Vinci Schools Employee Handbook

L. Jennings made a motion to Approve 2025-2026 Da Vinci Schools Employee Handbook.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
During discussion, Tom Johnstone recommended removing the italicized text regarding "DV Connect TK-8" on page 3. Michelle Rainey clarified the handbook's organizational specificity.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Approve 2025-26 RISE Student and Guardian Handbook

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve 2025-26 RISE Student and Guardian Handbook.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
Discussion included the need to add a space before "vandalism" on page 36 for consistency.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Accept Resignation of Board Member

This item will be **deferred and tabled until the August 13th agenda** for revisiting then, pending further legal clarification regarding Chris Taylor's potential continued participation.

V. 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 7:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Jennings

Next Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High): August 13, 2025