APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday December 17, 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.webex.com/meet/boardcoordinator or dial +1-213-306-3065 United States Toll (Los Angeles) and use Meeting number/Access code: 2864 928 1268.
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, L. Heimov, R. Ochoa, R. Santiago

Trustees Absent
J. Webber, L. Schaefer

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
L. Heimov

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth, C. Levenson, E. Whalen, Ian Lackey, Jessi Cantellan, Joshua Beals, L. Rodriguez, M. Amato, M. Rainey, M. Wunder, R. Anthony III (remote), S. Navarro, S. Wallis, T. Christopher (remote), 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 Wednesday Dec 17, 2025 at 6:13 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

B. Meath made a motion to approve.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Public Comments

None

II. Information

A. From the Board

Mr. Santiago wished everyone a happy holiday.

B. Student Board Update

Kristian Miller, Student Board Coordinator, introduced the report.
Amiralee Chea gave the update for Connect High School, sharing that all grade levels participated in a fun Field Day just after the November Board meeting, Black Student Union held their first meetings, and both cohorts held Exhibition on December 9 and 11. The Winter Bake Sale benefitted a local animal shelter, and students and families supported Da Vinci's Food Pantry, Nourish L.A..

The Design update was presented by Christopher Lopez, who noted the helpful FAFSA workshop put on by Da Vinci counselors, and that students enjoyed Spirit Week on their return from the Thanksgiving break as well as monthly Open Mic events at lunchtime. Additionally, students successfully navigated POL week and Wiseburn Da Vinci Track and Field tryouts.

Honor Denis shared the first half of the Connect TK-8 update, noting that the fun Fall Festival was held after being postponed, and that students in both cohorts staged successful Exhibition nights. Violet Schell shared that students were proud to participate in the Holiday Bazaar selling handmade items, and that families supported the Nourish L.A. Food Pantry.

Da Vinci Science update was presented by Penny Yang, who shared Youth & Government's Bill Hearing Night, Staff Appreciation Week, POL Week, CEA West Basin Municipal Water Tour, and HOSA Fundraiser.

Valerie Ortiz gave the Communications update, sharing POLS, Community Dialogue, Prospective Family Tour, Holiday Bazaar, and Global Glimpse, a nonprofit program that enables students to visit other countries during the summer.
L. Heimov arrived at 6:26 PM.

C. From the Chief People Officer

None

D. From the Assistant Superintendents - Da Vinci Design Update

Ms. Rainey thanked the data team for their assistance, and introduced Da Vinci Design Principal Ms. Samantha Navarro and Assistant Principal Ms. Korina Pailin, who presented the Design update.

Ms. Navarro noted the culture of care and concern at Design, a place where student well-being, emotional safety, academic care and support, restorative practices are at the core, and student voice is honored.

Incoming 9th graders experience summer Wolfpack Days facilitated by Design faculty and student leaders, where they take part in culture building activities and MAP diagnostic testing for English and Math. The Freshman Overnighter, Design Expectations Assembly, and analysis of appropriate Multi-Tier Student Supports (MTSS) further support new students.

Total enrollment at Design is 540, and students come from 20 different school districts. Attendance is analyzed on an ongoing basis. Current ADA is 94.33%, the goal is 95%, and various Multi-Tier Student Supports (MTSS) are in place to increase ADA.

Restorative justice practices reflect the belief that people are happier when those in positions of authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them. Staff worked with students to successfully increase engagement by using phone "hotels" or central storage in each classroom. Staff communicated with families to make them aware of the expectations.

Math MAP growth and achievement from Fall 2024-25 to Fall 2025-26 across grade levels were notable. Brief discussion ensued on the data. PSAT Math, Reading & Writing were slowly improving.

CAASPP 3-year trends inform the types of supports are put into place, and show that Math performance needs to improve. Staff are using the data to inform how the tests are presented and how students are prepared to take the tests seriously.

The California State Dashboard shows 91% of Design students are A-G eligible, in contrast with the California average of 46%. Career Technical Education completion is 82% at Design, versus the State average of 23%.

Goals for the rest of the year include increasing attendance and engagement, math instruction and use of Focused Interim Block Assessments (FIAB) to get students ready for testing. MTSS supports and interventions are constantly being refined. Also in place are tutoring and seminars focused on math success.

Areas of focus include using NWEA, CAASPP, PSAT test results together to support growth, Math (best practices), critical conversations and job-alikes in PD. The goal is vertical alignment and consistency.

Ms. Heimov inquired if there is a theory as to why there is a decline in test scores as students get older. Ms. Navarro noted that the team is looking to communicate the importance of testing, increasing student buy-in, giving them example questions and increasing supports to those students who need it.

Ms. Heimov then asked if all the school sites were quarantining phones in classrooms. Ms. Pailin responded that the APs agreed over the summer to use the same language, the same handbook pages across all sites.

Brief discussion ensued about the decline in students math scores as they get older and the fact that the school is small enough to look at individual students and how to support them as they need.

Mr. Boston inquired what the admin team's thoughts were about those students who may be getting A's and B's in class but do not do well in the tests. Ms. Navarro responded that she has thought about this and considered multiple aspects like grading, comparing grades to test scores, grading rubrics and supports provided.

Mr. Boston inquired if we are sending off A-G students to college who may not have that proficiency based on test scores. Ms. Rainey noted that schools strive to provide students with supports to maintain a balance between grades and test scores.

Ms. Pailin shared that some students who didn't take the tests seriously and were put into the support periods rather than their requested seminars and were then motivated to work harder, retake the tests, and request to be put back into seminars. It illustrates why explaining to the students how important the diagnostic tests are, and that it's to their benefit to take them seriously.

Mr. Boston would like to see what the test scores have been for each of the cohorts over their years at Da Vinci.

E.

Presentation: Portrait of a Thriving Young Person

Pulled for a subsequent meeting.

F. DV + WUSD Partnership Update

Ms. Levenson, Executive Director of External Relations, presented the DV + WUSD Partnership Update.

She shared that over 300 Da Vinci high school students volunteered at Wiseburn this semester, at events like three Wiseburn Math Nights, Wiseburn Middle School Spooktacular, and Hollyglen Bear Bazaar. The enrollment team will also attend three Wiseburn PTA meetings in the spring.

She then shared that Dr. Wunder has brought together Da Vinci's grant funders with Wiseburn and Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF), noting the Wiseburn Innovative Staffing initiative in collaboration with ASU, and the Pipkin Family Foundation, John and Cynthia Lee Smet Foundation, and Continental Development Corporation contributions.

The team is also working on developing deeper roots in Wiseburn, targeting young Wiseburn families to give them information about Da Vinci in a Panel Discussion planned for February 2, 2026.

Ms. Levenson worked with Ms. Erica Corder, who heads external relations at Wiseburn Unified, to collaborate on shared communications, family engagement, and aligned messaging.

Ms. Heimov requested a social media-ready post that she could share to extend Ms. Levenson's reach. Dr. Wunder shared that the work Ms. Levenson and her team is doing is very important, much needed, and serves all students regardless of the zip code in which they live.

G. Financial Update

Mr. Amato gave an update on the Coffee Bar budget and the First Interim reports.

He went over the coffee bar budget, detailing expenses, contingency costs, and future costs. The net cost for Da Vinci is $346,027, which will be taken from Undesignated Reserves.

Brief discussion ensued on capital assets. NAZ, project inspector, lab of record costs are soft costs. Mr. Amato explained that much of the cost creep comes from the delay of the health department and DSA going back and forth. The project was started in January, 2024, so it's taken two years to get to the final construction phase. Discussion on the substantial cost of project management ensued. Mr. Meath commented on the $79K cost for .2 FTD is $300/hour for project management. Mr. Amato clarified that their cost is

about the average for this type of work, which is $225/hour. Mr. Amato and the team are discussing it with the project management firm.

Discussion on the grant funding misunderstanding ensued. Mr. Amato explained that in the previous school year, Da Vinci received a grant to be applied toward the cafe and the kitchen projects. It also included a portion for future costs of the projects. Mr. Amato sent an email with details to the Wiseburn team and a $406K check to be used in part for the cafe and kitchen projects with a certain portion to be held for future costs. The District mistakenly applied the payment to 100% of the kitchen project, with a small amount leftover to the cafe. Dr. Wunder, Mr. Amato, and Dr. Silvers have spoken and straightened out the issue.

Mr. Amato noted that $225/hour is a reasonable rate in the industry; it is a question of the total number of hours NAZ has accumulated and their projected remaining time to completion.

Mr. Amato then turned to the FY 2025-26 revised first interim budget, sharing that the 201 school enrollment is tracking as predicted. The enrollment challenge is at Connect. (TK-8 and HS). Overall, enrollment at both sites was lower as of the end of November. 30 additional enrollments picked up in second semester will be helpful. Mr. Amato noted that large 8th grade and 12th grades classes graduated in June 2025, and not replaced at those levels in Fall 2025. He will budget with that in mind next year.

Dr. Wunder shared that multiple actions are in the works. Efforts are being made to create signature programs and practices in support of school culture at Connect High to appeal to more students. Additionally, a program with ASU Levitt Lab could draw in additional Connect High students with its offerings and 4-day model (Connect is currently two days).

Ms. Heimov noted the news report that L.A. County has seen a decrease of 16% in births in the past five years. The team should keep in mind that in ten years, there will be 20,000 fewer 8th graders in L.A. County. Dr. Wunder said that Da Vinci enjoys huge waitlists and if the school teams continue to do the great work they're doing, Da Vinci should still be in a good position.

Ms. Levenson added that the 9th and 10th grade classes at Connect High are smaller than she would have liked. All of the people on the waitlists have received offers to Da Vinci Connect High, and everyone who was interested was enrolled. A four day option would probably appeal to many on the waitlist.

Mr. Amato went on to note that the special education expenses is reflected in the budget. About five IEP students enrolled via the lottery this year, at an average expense of $50-$60K per student. Along with the $550K funding issue, $300K Special Education issue, it totaled about $800K. A one-time grant will balance out the budget, and the team is

looking at expense reductions and additional fundraising to support the year. The hope is to not use the entire one-time State grant in this year's budget.

Mr. Amato noted the cost savings from the access control system upgrade, for which he had budgeted $300K, but which came in at $135K.

H. Operations Update

Mr. Bravo shared the cafe update. If the agenda items are approved by the board the team will meet with the inspector of record and contractor as soon as possible. He noted that a delay in approval of the contractor bid will mean the process must be started over again.

The Connect TK-8 playground and lunch area and baseball field project is looking really good after work done as a result of the heavy rains, and the baseball team will have a chance to start using the field after the winter break.

The Wiseburn Athletic Complex project was impacted by the recent rains, but artificial turf will be laid soon, which will protect the area from future rain. The Wiseburn Da Vinci softball team is looking forward to using the field there.

Mr. Bravo participated at the Facilitron University conference panel on Da Vinci's use of the Facilitron for facilities reservations and rentals, and subsequently will be presenting at the CAASH conference about the same topic. Mr. Bravo will bring to the Board an updated facilities policy which will align with the Civic Center policy and work in conjunction with current Da Vinci facilities usage.

Mr. Bravo introduced Mr. Jessi Cantellan, the newest member of the IT team. He began with Da Vinci as an academic coach.

Mr. Santiago inquired about the new space at Connect High. According to Mr. Bravo, the work is completed. Mr. John Fernandez toured the site and offered suggestions to improve usage and quality of use. Dr. Wunder noted Continental Development Corporation's contributions of furniture.

I. From the Superintendent

None

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the November 19, 2025 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

R. Ochoa made a motion to Approve Minutes of the November 19, 2025 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting.

D. Boston seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Consent Agenda

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

B. Meath made a motion to accept.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
Mr. Meath requested Item F. be pulled to discuss the NAZ fee. Mr. Amato noted that what is up for approval is a budget, not the final cost. Not approving the budget prevents the budget from moving forward. Three vendors are up for approval.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve 2025-26 First Interim Financial Reports for Da Vinci Communications, Connect, Design, and Science

B. Meath made a motion to approve the 2025-26 First Interim Financial 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
R. Santiago	Aye
J. Webber	Absent
D. Boston	Aye
B. Meath	Aye
L. Heimov	Aye
L. Schaefer	Absent

C. Approve Proposal for Inspector of Record Services for the Café Project

B. Meath made a motion to approve the Proposal for the Inspector of Record Services for the Cafe Project.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve Proposal for Lab of Record/Specialty Inspections & Materials Testing Services for Café Project

B. Meath made a motion to approve the proposal for the Lab of Record/Specialty Inspections & Materials Testing Service for the Cafe Project.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Bid for Contractor for Café Project

B. Meath made a motion to approve the Bid for the Contractor of the Cafe Project.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F.

Approve Updated Budget for Café Project

Mr. Meath pulled this item from the approval agenda for further work. The Da Vinci team will present it for approval in a future meeting.

G. Approve Replacement of Access Control System

B. Meath made a motion to approve the Replacement of the Access Control System.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Approve SEWI+ Da Vinci Schools Partnership

B. Meath made a motion to approve the SEWI + Da Vinci Schools Partnership.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Entered at 8:09 pm.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Closed session convened at 8:36 p.m.
Mr. Santiago stated that no action was taken in Closed session.

VI. 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 8:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2026.