APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday January 28, 2026 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.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, J. Webber (remote), L. Heimov, L. Schaefer, R. Ochoa, R. Santiago

Trustees Absent
None

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
B. Meath

Guests Present
A. Daramola, A. Wohlwerth, C. Levenson, E. Whalen, Edwin Villalobos, Gary Wayland (remote), Joshua Beals, L. Rodriguez (remote), M. Amato, M. Rainey, M. Wunder, R. Anthony III, S. Wallis, T. Christopher, V. Bravo, V. Rodriguez, Vanessa Pineda (remote)

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 Jan 28, 2026 at 6:04 AM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

J. Webber made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The Student Board Update will not be presented but instead, January's report will be incorporated into the February report.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Public Comments

None

II. Information

A. From the Board

Mr. Santiago wished everyone a Happy New Year.

B. Student Board Update

Removed from the agenda.

C. From the Chief People Officer

None

D. From the Assistant Superintendents - Connect High School Update

Principal Tami Christopher and Assistant Principal Robert Anthony gave the update for Connect High School.

Connect High is an independent study/hybrid, dual enrollment high school. Students are in-person two days per week, and learning asynchronously/at home three days per week. If they wish, they may sign up for on-campus support an additional two days a week. Most courses are semester-long. All students have access to ASU college coursework beginning in 9th grade. A student can graduate with 20+ college credits if they begin at Connect HS in 9th grade.

Current enrollment at Connect HS includes 399 students across all ethnicities. About 35% of them qualify for free and reduced lunch, an indicator of socioeconomic status. Universal Design for Learning student supports benefit all students.

9th Grade supports are robust, to help students transition to not just high school, but to the hybrid structure of Connect. These supports include 9th grade summer bridge, Orientation Day, Algebraic foundations, and 9th grade-only "What I Need (WIN)" and Advisory periods, and ASU's OGL 194, a "learn how to college" 1-unit course.

Dual enrollment including primary partner ASU: 96% of the class of 2025 completed at least one college course. 52% of the class of 2025 completed three or more ASU courses, and 43% of all CHS graduates completed five or more college courses before graduation.

MAP math data shows growth over time in math scores. The test is administered twice a year. The CAASPP test is only administered to the 11th graders. Many students transfer into Connect, some of them in 11th grade, which affects testing data.

Math interventions include continuing year-long math courses, math staff professional development, Interim Assessment Block (IAB)/Focused Interim Assessment Block (FIAB) implementation, targeted intervention, algebraic foundations for 9th graders, and increasing on-campus instructional minutes by 8,400 (making up holidays, etc.).

MAP reading data: Connect students are doing well in English. English Language Arts (ELA) interventions include embedding ASU English 101 into English 11, continual assessment and increasing course offerings, implementing IAB/FIAB assessments, targeted intervention, project-based learning professional development, and increasing on-campus instructional minutes by 8,400.

CAASPP data show three year trends (only 11th graders take the CAASPP test) by subgroups like English learners, students with disabilities, ethnicity, and parent education level

Areas of focus are Math FIAB/IAB, data dives with staff and now, with students for both math and ELA, MTSS support periods for students who need a little more than the supports all students receive. The team has a plan to increase the number of students attending office hours (9th graders required to attend math office hours, for example, show better grades.

Mr. Santiago commented that he would imagine that the parents' level of education would affect students' success, since asynchronous learning is done at home.

Ms. Christopher noted Talking Points, a texting app, which is unique to Connect HS, is used to communicate with parents. Teachers can immediately communicate with families when necessary.

Brief discussion about encouraging parents to further their own education ensued. Dr. Wunder shared that Mr. Christopher Jackson is pursuing his certified financial planner

license in order to support Da Vinci families. Dr. Wunder went on to discuss the shifting landscape of Advanced Placement courses, and Da Vinci's dual enrollment approach. Dual enrollment students show a 71% college completion rate vs. 57% of students who didn't take dual enrollment courses.
Ms. Rainey commented that dual enrollment courses are meant to further equity in access for students who don't have the same opportunities and expectations around college.

Mr. Boston thanked Ms. Christopher, saying that he appreciates the way she and her team use data to drive their work. He inquired if the team looks at where students land in college: regular or remedial coursework in freshman year. Ms. Christopher shared that the team is working to grow Connect's alumni data.

Dr. Wallis commented that one of the things his team is working on is getting alumni to respond to the surveys the team sends out. He has made a note to add the question to surveys, and to speak to high school seniors about is the type of courses they take in college.

Ms. Rainey commented that Ms. Caline Smith, consultant, has been working with all Da Vinci math teachers to help students when they encounter assessments, so that they do not end up disadvantaged by colleges that take those assessments seriously.
B. Meath arrived at 6:11 PM.

E. DV + WUSD Partnership Update

Ms. Levenson spoke of the Community Conversation event co-sponsored by Da Vinci, Wiseburn, and Wiseburn Education Foundation to be held the following week. 110 adults have signed up to attend, and will be bringing 96 children with them. There will be supervised activities for the kids, a panel discussion for the adults, and dinner for all. The event is at capacity, with 11 families on the waitlist.

She went on to share cross-collaboration efforts including a DV high school one-pager being given to prospective Wiseburn families; all DV high schools are now included in Wiseburn's prospective family presentations; and DV is included in three articles in Wiseburn's newsletters. Wiseburn's communications team toured Da Vinci Schools. Da Vinci has attended the Wiseburn Middle School coffee, and students have volunteered at many more Wiseburn events.

Mr. Boston inquired about how Ms. Levenson's team can measure the results of their efforts. Ms. Levenson responded that there will be a feedback survey after Monday's family event, which will ask, among other things, if the respondent understands Da Vinci better, having attended the event.

Dr. Wunder added that it is an opportunity to help correct any community misconceptions about Da Vinci Schools.
Ms. Rainey spoke about the Portrait of a Learner project, shared with Wiseburn. Da Vinci and Wiseburn staff met to discuss their viewpoints and goals on the profile of a learner, where those goals overlap, and how to collaboratively approach educating students.

F. Financial Update

Mr. Amato introduced Christy White auditor Ms. Vanessa Pineda, who gave the 2025 audit report for Da Vinci Schools. Da Vinci received unmodified opinions (the best opinion possible) regarding financial statements, internal controls over financial reporting and compliance, compliance for each major federal program, and compliance with State programs. There were no findings, deficiencies, or material weaknesses.

Ms. Pineda thanked Da Vinci's and CSMC's staff for their assistance in completing the audit. Mr. Santiago thanked Ms. Pineda.

Mr. Amato shared that he and Mr. Bravo had spoken to NAZ Building Program Advisors regarding the cafe budget. NAZ originally projected $79K to complete the project. Mr. Amato and Mr. Bravo shared that Ms. Zamudio, agreeing with the need to keep costs down, has removed two of her staffers from the project, and will provide an updated cost estimate for the February board meeting.

P1 attendance has just been reported to the State, the first initial measurement for State funding. The figures give Mr. Amato a good idea of where Da Vinci stands. Mr. Amato's first interim budget estimate is made before P1 data is acquired; P2 attendance figures will help him hone the second interim budget in March.

The Governor's 2026-27 budget proposal is not final until the May Revision, but it is the first indicator of the State budget. It was generally good news; the proposal included an increase in the LCFF funding with a 2.41% COLA, which is better than the previous year, and a new discretionary block grant has been announced which Mr. Amato projects will result in $1.26M for DV. In addition, the one-time Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant has been renewed. Last year's one-month deferral will remain for this year, but Da Vinci has a strong cash position, so the impact of the deferral is minimal.

The Governor's proposal also includes more funding for Special Education.

Dr. Wunder commented about the Community Learning Days are a win for students, but come with onerous reporting requirements for students, which has led to a loss of $150K attendance dollars. Ms. Rodriguez is surveying staff regarding converting students' attendance reporting.

Ms. Schaefer commented that she has experienced being notified by her daughter's school to fill out a Google form, but finds that she doesn't have access. Dr. Wunder directed the IT team to follow up.

G. Operations Update

Mr. Bravo reported on the Saving Hearts Foundation's free heart screening event being hosted at Da Vinci Schools in early February.

The cafe construction has commenced. Connect TK-8 art teacher Chris Mason is designing signage. Mr. Bravo shared the construction timeline. Completion is expected in mid April.

The Connect TK-8 athletic field construction is officially completed, and the field has been returned to Wiseburn Unified School District. Students have been taking advantage of the area - the baseball team has been practicing there.

The WDV Girls' basketball team is doing well as they move toward the playoffs.

H. From the Superintendent

Dr. Wunder spoke of shifting the Board meetings to mornings. The team will survey the trustees on their thoughts.

Dr. Wallis shared that the third annual Career Connected Learning Gathering event will be happening in mid-March. The trustees are welcome to join any part of it they wish. DVSF supports the gathering; there is no charge for admission. It is a good way to connect with other educational institutions both locally and from around the country.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the December 17, 2025 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 12-17-25.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Consent Agenda

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

L. Schaefer made a motion to accept the Da Vinci Schools Transaction Register for November, 2025.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve FY2024-25 Annual Audit

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the FY2024-25 Annual Audit.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve Pay Scale for Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the Pay Scale for Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Communications

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Communications.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Connect

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Connect.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Design

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Design.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approve 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Science

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the 2025-26 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Da Vinci Science.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Approve Updated Fiscal Policies and Procedures

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the updated Fiscal Policies and Procedures.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approve Updated School-Sponsored Field Trips Policy and Request Guidelines

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the updated School-Sponsored Field Trips Policy and Request Guidelines.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

J.

Approve Board Policy for Student Behavioral Health Referral Protocols

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the Board Policy for Student Behavioral Health Referral Protocols.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

K. Approve Overnight Field Trip for the Da Vinci Science HOSA Club

L. Schaefer made a motion to approve the Overnight Field Trip for the Da Vinci Science HOSA Club.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Action Items

A. Approve Addendum to Employment Contract between Da Vinci Schools and Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Santiago read aloud the following: “Pursuant to Government Code section 54953, subdivision (c)(3), the Board provides this oral summary of the salary and/or fringe benefit payments provided to the Superintendent by way of the pending employment contract:

- The **term** of the amended employment contract between Da Vinci Schools and the Chief Financial Officer is from January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029;
- The new payment towards a health benefits package is in the amount of $30,000 per year.

1. All other terms and conditions in the original employment contract remain the same.”

J. Webber made a motion to approve the Addendum to the Employment Contract between Da Vinci Schools and the Chief Financial Officer.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Entered at 7:45 p.m.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

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 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: February 25, 2026.