APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Wednesday February 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

Additional teleconference locations:

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/92511274165 or dial (669) 444-9171 and use Meeting ID: 925 1127 4165.
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, L. Jennings, S. Nellman

Trustees Absent
C. Brown, T. Johnstone

Guests Present
E. Whalen, J. Crouch, L. Rodriguez (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Rainey, M. Wunder, N. Lara, V. Rodriguez (remote)

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 Wednesday Feb 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

Carla McCullough asked for closed session to be moved to the front of the agenda.
C. McCullough made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
S. Nellman seconded the motion.
Carla McCullough asked to amend the agenda and move the closed session to the front of the agenda.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Brown	Absent
L. Jennings	Aye
S. Nellman	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Absent

D. Public Comments

No public comment was noted.

II. Information

A. From the Board

There was nothing to report from the Board.

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

There was nothing to report from the CEO/Superintendent.

C. From the Assistant Superintendents

There was nothing to report from the Assistant Superintendents.

D. From the Executive Director of Special Education

Executive Director of Special Education Lynn Rodriguez report to the board that on February 6, 2026, two special education teachers participated in a full-day Level 2 Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training. During the session, they contributed a unique lens and provided specific questions to the larger group of trainees. Following this, on February 11, the team attended a webinar focused on the accessibility resources available for CAASPP testing.

E. Facilities Update

There was nothing to report regarding facilities updates.

F. RISE High Update

Principal Naomi Lara provided the board a comprehensive update on school demographics, student performance, and recent campus activities. As of February 2026, the school serves a high-need student population, with 162 total students. Notably, 16% of students are current or former foster youth, 25% have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and **12%** are experiencing homelessness. Attendance data shows that the 2025-26 average daily attendance (ADA) remains stable at 72.92%, showing significant improvement over historical lows during the 2020-2023 period.

The presentation highlights several strategic partnerships and academic initiatives, most notably a collaboration with the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine. This partnership involved a cross-sector learning exchange where RISE students in the CTE Health Sciences Pathway co-designed virtual patients to strengthen clinical reasoning skills. Other recent activities included a CSUDH college tour focusing on the Guardian Scholar Program and specialized training for staff in crisis prevention and CAASPP accessibility resources.

Looking ahead, the school has established a clear assessment timeline for the spring, covering ELPAC, NWEA MAP, and CAASPP/CAST testing through June 2026. The school also welcomed five new staff members, referred to as "RISE Revolutionaries," including case managers, behavior interventionists, and paraeducators. The presentation concluded by celebrating these staff members and their commitment to trauma-informed models that help youth succeed.

G. Presentation: Mid-Year LCAP Update for Da Vinci RISE

Principal Naomi Lara reported to the board that the Midyear LCAP Update for the 2025-26 school year highlights significant progress and ongoing challenges across five primary goals focused on academic achievement, school climate, and student outcomes. Attendance and graduation rates show positive trends, with 60% of students either maintaining high attendance or improving from the previous year, and the DASS 1-year cohort graduation rate increasing by 16.5% to 47.1%. Academic performance in ELA and Math, while still below standard, showed improvement on the 2025 CA School Dashboard, earning Orange ratings with increases of 70.8 points and 43.5 points, respectively.

The school continues to prioritize a supportive environment, maintaining "Exemplary" ratings for facilities and high student safety survey results. Efforts in parent and educational partner engagement are strong, with 100% of surveyed families feeling welcome to participate in the school. For high-need student populations, the 5-year rolling average graduation rate reached 62% for foster youth and 81% for homeless students. However, midyear focus areas identify a cohort dropout rate concern, as 57% of students who withdrew prior to the end of Q2 were reported as dropouts or unaccounted for. To address these areas, the school is implementing targeted interventions, including credit recovery, specialized academic plans, and career education opportunities to improve overall college and career readiness.

H. Financial Update

CFO Michael Amato provided a comprehensive financial update for RISE, noting that the organization is currently halfway through its fiscal year as of December 31st. Overall, the organization remains on track with its initial budget projections. The balance sheet

reflects a strong cash position of $1.926 million, significantly higher than the $900,000 in reserves held at the start of the year. This surplus is primarily attributed to grant funding received but not yet spent, which is currently generating interest. Other balance sheet items, including $361,000 in accounts receivable and capital assets like the RISE van, remain within normal operating ranges.

While the financials currently show a temporary decrease of just over $160,000, Amato explained this is a standard timing issue caused by front-loaded expenses in the first half of the year. He expects the year-end figures to reach a break-even point or better, especially as student enrollment and Average Daily Attendance (ADA) percentages are trending higher than his conservative forecasts. This positive trend is expected to result in a funding increase in the upcoming second interim report.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the January 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

The approval of the minutes from the January 21, 2026 regular board meeting was tabled to the next board meeting.

IV. Action Items

A. Accept December 2025 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

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

B. Approve 2024-25 Tax Return

L. Jennings made a motion to Approve 2024-25 Tax Return.
S. Nellman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Approve MOU between Self Awareness and Recovery (SAR) Mentorship Program and Da Vinci RISE

S. Nellman made a motion to Approve MOU between Self Awareness and Recovery (SAR) Mentorship Program and Da Vinci RISE.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

The board moved into closed session at 6:11 PM.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

The board returned from closed session at 6:44PM.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. McCullough made a motion to Adjourn Meeting.
S. Nellman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Crouch

Next Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High): March 18, 2026