APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time
Wednesday April 22, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
Mona Lisa, 201 N. Douglas St., 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/92295629815 or dial (669) 444-9171 and use Meeting ID: 922 9562 9815.
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. Brown, C. McCullough, L. Jennings, S. Nellman, T. Johnstone

Trustees Absent
None

Guests Present
E. Whalen, J. Crouch, L. Rodriguez, M. Amato (remote), M. Rainey, M. Wunder, N. Lara, 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 Wednesday Apr 22, 2026 at 6:04 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

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

D. Public Comments

No public comments were noted.

II. Information

A. From the Board

The Board expressed its appreciation to the school executive team and site leadership for their thoughtful and comprehensive presentation at the Wiseburn school meeting regarding the material revision hearing. Board members acknowledged the clarity, preparation, and professionalism demonstrated throughout the presentation, noting that the information provided allowed for a thorough understanding of the proposed revisions and their intended impact on students and the broader school community.

The Board also commended the leadership team for their responsiveness to questions and their commitment to transparency and continuous improvement. Members shared their gratitude for the collaborative approach taken to engage RISE community stakeholders.

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

Superintendent/CEO Matt Wunder provided a brief update highlighting ongoing organizational priorities and progress across RISE. He expressed appreciation for the executive team and school leadership teams, recognizing their tireless focus and dedication in preparing for upcoming charter reauthorization presentations. The CEO emphasized that this work reflects a strong commitment to accountability, continuous improvement, and ensuring high-quality outcomes for students, while reinforcing confidence in the schools' readiness for the reauthorization process.

C. From the Assistant Superintendents

Assistant Superintendents Erin Whalen and Michelle Rainey reported to the school board that the RISE team is making strong progress with state testing, sharing that 62% of students have already completed their assessments. They acknowledged the collective effort of staff and partners in preparing for the upcoming charter reauthorization presentations, noting the level of coordination and commitment across the team. The Assistant Superintendents also expressed gratitude to board members for their continued advocacy and support of RISE, recognizing their important role in advancing the school's mission.

D. From the Executive Director of Special Education

Executive Director of Special Education Lynn Rodriguez informed the board that the Special Education department has been busy responding to multiple records requests. Additionally, she let the board know that RISE recently went through a CIM review and the school was found to be in compliance.

E. Facilities Update

Assistant Superintendent Vincente Bravo updated the board on the progress that the facilities dept. has been making in preparing for upcoming events such as graduation. He explained that his department remains ready should anything be needed.

F. RISE High Update

Principal Naomi Lara provided a comprehensive overview of RISE High's current status, highlighting student demographics, attendance trends, assessment updates, and upcoming school activities. She explained that the school currently serves 166 students, including notable populations of youth with foster care involvement (15%), students experiencing homelessness (13%), and students with individualized education needs (25% with IEPs), along with 20% identified as English Learners. Principal Lara also reviewed multi-year attendance data, emphasizing a strong recovery from pandemic-related declines, with the 2025–26 school year showing consistent attendance rates in the low-to-mid 70% range—an encouraging improvement compared to previous years. She outlined upcoming spring assessments, including CAASPP, CAST, ELPAC, and NWEA testing beginning in late April, underscoring the school's focus on monitoring academic progress. Additionally, she shared updates on the Quarter 4 launch, outcomes from the Foster Youth Services Program (FSP) site visit, and plans for upcoming senior events and celebrations. Principal Lara concluded by recognizing team achievements and welcoming a new members of the school, reflecting both the school's progress and its strong sense of community.

G. Financial Update

CFO Michael Amato reported to the board that the February financial report reflects an overall stable and positive financial position for the organization, with no immediate concerns. The balance sheet shows a strong cash position, driven largely by approximately $1.6 million in deferred revenue from grant funds that have been received but not yet spent. While cash levels are temporarily high, they are expected to decrease as planned expenses are incurred throughout the remainder of the year. Accounts receivable, at $337,000, remains within a normal and manageable range. Despite a temporary year-to-date deficit of about $270,000, the organization is on track to meet its goal of ending the year slightly above break-even, with a projected surplus of around $8,000. Reserve levels remain solid, expected to increase slightly from $911,000 to approximately $915,000–$920,000 by year-end.

On the revenue side, Mr. Amato reported that improved attendance has had a positive financial impact. Actual average daily attendance (ADA) came in higher than projected (109.15 vs. 106.5), resulting in an estimated $50,000 increase in funding. This allows the organization to rely less on restricted grant funds, preserving those resources—such as approximately $310,000 in ERC funds—for future use. Expenses are tracking as expected, and no significant variances have been identified. While planning for next year's budget is still underway and dependent on program and authorization decisions, leadership expressed confidence that there will be no financial stability issues moving

forward. Overall, the organization is maintaining healthy reserves, managing expenses effectively, and benefiting from stronger-than-expected revenue performance.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 01-21-26.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Minutes of the February 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

C. McCullough made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 02-18-26.
S. Nellman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve Minutes of the March 11, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

C. McCullough made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 03-11-26.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Action Items

A.

Accept February 2026 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

L. Jennings made a motion to Accept February 2026 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.
S. Nellman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve 2026-27 DVLAC RISE High Academic Calendar

S. Nellman made a motion to Approve 2026-27 DVLAC RISE High Academic Calendar.
C. Brown seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

The board moved into closed session at 6:57PM to discuss pending litigation.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

The board reconvened from closed session at 7:24PM with nothing to report.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to Adjourn Meeting.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Brown	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye

Roll Call

S. Nellman Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Crouch

Next Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High): May 20, 2026