APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Friday October 30, 2026 at 7:30 AM

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, L. Heimov, L. Schaefer, R. Ochoa, R. Santiago

Trustees Absent
D. Boston, J. Webber

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
L. Schaefer

Guests Present
A. Wohlwerth, E. Whalen, K. Toon, Kaitlin Toon, L. Rodriguez, M. Amato, M. Rainey, M. Wunder (remote), R. Anthony III, Robert Anthony III, T. Christopher, 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 Friday Oct 30, 2026 at 7:49 AM.
Mr. Boston participated remotely but would not be voting.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

R. Ochoa made a motion to approve.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call
J. Webber Absent
L. Schaefer Absent

D. Public Comments

Dr. Julie Guthrie gave a comment on Athletics communications and safety. She feels that a singular communications platform and centralized calendar should be used across all the various sports.

She also requested a more intentional Kick-Off/Start of the Year Athletics meeting, to give parents and student athletes focused information on expectations of student athletes' behavior and sportsmanship. She also stated that although she has seen Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) banners and signs around the campus, she hasn't seen any communications or instances of PCA in action. She supports PCA and believes that its' principles will greatly benefit the student athletes.

Regarding student safety, Dr. Guthrie stated that there were multiple incidents of players incurring concussions during the flag football season. She indicated that there did not seem to be a consistent program/schoolwide concussion protocol, with parents just being asked to take their student to their own doctors. She mentioned that the 6 Steps of Concussion Protocol for Return to Play did not appear to be implemented with any fidelity or consistency. With regards to the Athletic Trainers, there was a question regarding their role in providing concussion protocols versus that of the coaches.

Mr. Santiago thanked Dr. Guthrie for her comments and noted that they would be taken under advisement.

II. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

This closed session was forgone in the interest of time.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

III. Information

A. From the Board

Ms. Heimov urged everyone to vote!

B. From the Superintendent

Dr. Wunder noted that Da Vinci is seeking an ongoing funding source for a work experience program, and the Board will be seeing a memo from Dr. Wunder outlining some opportunities.

C. From the Chief People Officer

Ms. Rodriguez gave a presentation on staff attrition and retention.
She noted the national teacher shortage, saying that 1 in 8 U.S. teaching positions are vacant or filled by teachers without full certification. California is doing more to attract teachers, as new teacher credentials reached a 10-year high in 2024-25, and a new $10K student-teacher stipend was launched in July 2026. Preparation gaps remain, as over a third of new California teachers started with emergency credentials. Special education, science, and math remain the areas with the largest need.

Da Vinci's teacher attrition showed a 6.7% exit rate for the 2025-26 year. Of the six teachers who exited, two changed professions, one accepted a different position, one moved out of the area, one cited professional advancement, and one cited a lack of support as reasons for leaving. None cited compensation. Da Vinci had a 93.3% retention rate for all certificated staff, including the six staff who were not renewed. Turnover in leadership affects staff turnover, and all Da Vinci site administrators were retained.

Da Vinci had a 94% teacher retention rate for 2025-26. One teacher moved from Communications to The Levitt Lab, and so counts as a retention.

56 (soon to be 57) Da Vinci alumni are working as staff members across the organization. 13 future teachers, counselors, and psychologists are completing the Alder program. Seven classified staff have applied for the Alder program priority round for four spaces, so the program is competitive. Da Vinci is looking for other universities with which to partner to provide more opportunities for future educators.

D. Student Achievement Presentation: The Levitt Lab and Connect High School

Ms. Michelle Rainey introduced the first site data presentation for the year.

CAASPP results show impressive growth from 2024-25 to 2025-26: Design saw 20.4 and 31.2 growth for Math and ELA, respectively. Science, 16.6 and 19.4, and Communications 47.4 and 38.6. At Connect High School, the number of students who met or exceeded math goals more than doubled, and ELA goals grew by 8%. At Connect TK-8, two year math growth went from 46% to 54%.

She noted that all sites are now aligned around NWEA MAP assessments to track data, and WASC and LCAP goals are also aligned in determining who the students are and how to support them, teacher and leader meetings across the organization are becoming much more data driven and aligned around academic achievement in addition to operational issues.

Principal Ms. Tami Christopher spoke about achievement at Da Vinci Connect High School.

CAASPP test strategic goals are to decrease the number of students in the Level 1 (minimal_ category, while increasing the Level 2 (developing) and 3 (proficient) categories in Math. In ELA, the goal is to decrease the number of students in the Level 2 category while increasing the Level 3 and 4 (advanced) categories. It's important to note that the CAASPP test is only given to 11th graders, so that there is no year-to-year data for this test.

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals in Math are to decrease the percent of 9th or 10th graders scoring Low or Low Average in Operations and Algebraic Thinking. The team is focusing on Operations and Algebraic Thinking because it is aligned with CAASPP testing and is where a high level of foundational math skills is found.

ELA reading skills involve literary text, informational text, and vocabulary. For this school year, the 9th and 10th graders will focus on informational text, which makes up 70% of the CAASPP test and is a key skill all students need to learn.

To achieve the goals, Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) have been implemented, such as Math and ELA support seminars, twice-yearly student MAP data talks and goal setting (so students understand the test and can set personal goals), and continuing Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs). This is the second year that Connect has designated MTSS teachers and the support of a Math Coach for teachers.

The English department uses FIABs and departmental team meetings to focus on essential informational text skill such as identifying a central idea, inferences, and textual evidence. Connect has three Math teachers and three English teachers.
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Ms. Heimov inquired about the number of students at Connect High School. Ms. Christopher shared that the school has ~360 students enrolled. Mr. Santiago asked where the students come from, and brief discussion ensued around the number of 11th and 12th grade transfer students affecting the number of a-g eligible graduates, as such students may not have come from schools focused on a-g courses and do not have enough time to complete them all at Da Vinci.

Ms. Kaitlin Toon, leader of The Levitt Lab (TLL), gave the presentation, sharing that TLL has 38 students this year, three of whom are sophomores, and the rest of whom are freshmen, and that the sample size for the data in her presentation is very small. As the pilot group of students, there is no comparison data for them. The MAP test is given in September, February, and May. The pilot students are coming in with fairly high scores. Ms. Toon noted that the strategic goals align with their LCAP and WASC goals for math

intervention, and making sure the team is closing gaps for subgroups like students with IEPs and those who qualify as low socioeconomic status. The Levitt Lab has no English Language Learners this year.

The strategic goals are to increase Winter student growth scores in Math and Reading for 85% of the students who scored in Low-Average range in the Fall.

SMART goals in Math are to increase growth by at least three points for 85% of the low-scoring students particularly in Real and Complex Number Systems. Those are foundational skills that are needed for higher math. Current TLL students are in Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus.

In Reading, the goal is to increase scores of 85% of low-scoring students by at least 3 points, particularly in the area of Informational Text, which crosses both TLL grade levels and is required for preparation for the Socratic seminars at The Levitt Lab.

Supports include bi-weekly one-to-one meetings between students and Guides/teachers, and strategic use of paraeducators during targeted Lab Time. Spark tutors are also engaged for targeted instructional coaching, as well as off-screen mastery tasks of essential skills, and flexibly-paced, yearlong courses to allow pacing aligned to student need.

ELA has similar supports, along with consistent instruction in annotating informational text in Open Exchange Socratic seminars.

Ms. Heimov inquired about this, and Ms. Toon responded that ASU branded their proprietary Socratic Seminars as "Open Exchange," although in practice, the seminars are run as typical Socratic seminars.

Ms. Schaefer inquired about the type of students who joined The Levitt Lab. 9th graders were the focus for the first year. Next year, the program will recruit 9th and 10th graders. The goal is to add 50 students at each grade level each year.

Mr. Santiago inquired about the sole Math teacher. Ms. Toon noted that the teacher who left Communications moved to The Levitt Lab, and is phenomenal at teaching, so the math program is in good hands.

Mr. Boston thanked Ms. Toon for the work of getting the program off the ground. He noted that perhaps going forward, it may be good to look at achievement in a broader sense, and not such a test-focused sense, acknowledging that test data is the easiest measure.
L. Schaefer arrived at 8:00 AM.

E.

Financial Update

Mr. Amato shared the August balance sheet, noting that cash is lower than at this time last year, due to receivables being off by a month. Accounts receivable have been collected in September, as opposed to August. September and October receivables are on track.

A large ($900K) Accounts Payable amount reflects a one-week difference, and is back on track in September.

Insurance expenses have hit the books early compared to last year, but Da Vinci is on budget for the first two months of the year.

Net assets show a large decrease at this time of the year, however, expenses outpace funding for the first six to nine months of the year. One big factor is that insurance payments were prepaid in advance this year (Da Vinci switched insurance vendors for the year).

January 1, 2027 is the time at which health benefits cycle to the new year. Mr. Amato credited Ms. Rodriguez and her HR team for the work of negotiating with the broker. The team did look at changing brokers/companies again through PERS to see if there were potential savings, but ultimately decided to stay with the current broker. Mr. Amato notes the increase this year is reasonable. The majority of the 199 employees in a Da Vinci health plan are enrolled in Kaiser plans. Costs for Blue Shield are higher, and the increases average out to 7.7% across the organization. The recommendation is to share the cost increase at a 90:10 ratio, 90% borne by the organization, and 10% by the employee. Dental and vision plans have no increase.

Mr. Amato planned for an 11.5%/$300K cost increase to Da Vinci, but because of the positive news of the lower increase, the cost to Da Vinci will likely be $130K, which is $170K under budget.

F. Operations Update

Mr. Bravo shared that there is a new Chartwells Director, Carmen Dessa, who joined Chartwells in October, and will oversee the dining services program, including the Wolves Cafe.

Mr. Bravo also shared that he, Nancy Banuelos, Sarah Lalau, and new Operations Manager Yesenia Rivas will be attending Facilitron University, where Mr. Bravo will be giving a presentation on Da Vinci's Facilities Rental policy and how Da Vinci manages facility use through Facilitron.

Last, he noted high-profile incidents at schools around the country, saying that Da Vinci works closely with law enforcement, and that he just held a Safety Committee Meeting

with representatives from all Da Vinci sites. The committee will focus on communications during a crisis and reunification plans (when evacuations are executed and parents pick up students from off site locations).

Ms. Schaefer inquired about the technology used for reunification. Mr. Bravo's team is looking at a national program that is used primarily by colleges and universities for communications. Ms. Schaefer's college uses Everbridge, which allows students to acknowledge receipt of the messages that are sent out so there is some accounting of student safety. Mr. Bravo shared that they are looking at an app-based system, and that Motorola is going to be presenting their solutions to the team as well.

G. Student Board Advisors Presentation

This presentation will be emailed to the Board members in consideration of meeting time constraints.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the September 23, 2026 Regular Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting

B. Meath made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 09-23-26.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Consent Agenda

A. Accept the Da Vinci Schools and RISE Transaction Registers - August, 2026

B. Meath made a motion to accept the August, 2026 Da Vinci and RISE transaction registers.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Santiago	Aye
R. Ochoa	Aye
L. Schaefer	Aye

Roll Call

B. Meath	Aye
L. Heimov	Aye
D. Boston	Absent
J. Webber	Absent

B. Approve 2027 Health Benefits Renewal

B. Meath made a motion to approve the 2027 Health Benefits renewal.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve Data Processing Addendum to the Contract between Fulcrum Education, LLC and Da Vinci Schools

Mr. Boston inquired if the scope of work had changed on the original contract. Mr. Amato noted that Da Vinci's legal counsel was consulted.
B. Meath made a motion to approve the Data Processing Addendum to the Contract between Fulcrum Education, LLC and Da Vinci Schools.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve Student Transportation Reimbursement for School-Sponsored Classes and Events Board Policy

B. Meath made a motion to approve the Student Transportation Reimbursement for School-Sponsored Classes and Events Board policy.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Da Vinci Schools Artificial Intelligence Policy

Mr. Boston inquired if comparisons to other districts were conducted. Mr. Whalen noted that he and Dr. Wallis had been working on this for the past two years, and had consulted with other educational organizations. Summit Public Schools' policy was used as the basis of the policy. The policy before the Board is [see tape].

Ms. Rainey shared that she regularly receives information from other districts on this and other subjects.

Mr. Boston inquired if Da Vinci is using enterprise versions of AI platforms versus personal accounts. Mr. Whalen shared that the AI Innovation Implementation Council is driving toward enterprise recommendations.

Dr. Wunder shared that Playlab will give Da Vinci a free enterprise account.

Mr. Boston noted that an enterprise platform will help mitigate the privacy and data sharing risks.

Ms. Heimov inquired about the equity of student uses of AI. Ms. Rainey spoke about the spectrum of teachers who are all in for AI, those who are all out, and those who fall in between. It's slow, intentional work.
B. Meath made a motion to approve the Da Vinci Schools Artificial Intelligence Policy.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Connect High School Spanish Immersion Field Trip

B. Meath made a motion to approve the Connect High School Spanish Immersion Field Trip.
R. Ochoa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed session entered at 9:13 a.m.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public session reconvened at 10am
Mr. Santiago reported that no action was taken in closed session.

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 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: Friday, November 20, 2026 at 7:30 AM