



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2012**

**Board Members Present:**

Chet Pipkin, President  
Don Brann, Vice President  
Cheryl Cook, Secretary  
Art Lofton, Trustee

**Staff Present:**

Matt Wunder, Executive Director  
Nicole Tempel Assisi, Principal-DVIA  
Steve Wallis, Principal-Da Vinci Science  
Colleen O'Boyle, Principal-Da Vinci Design  
Tom Cox, Wiseburn Chief Business Officer  
Melanie Franko, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chet Pipkin at 7:22 a.m. on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Wiseburn School District Board Room, 13500 Aviation Boulevard, Hawthorne, CA.

**Approval of Minutes**

February 14, 2012 minutes approved.

First: Don Brann; Second: Art Lofton; Motion carries.

**From the Board**

- Cheryl, speaking as a parent, praised the Da Vinci staff for their professionalism and excellence.
- Art thanked Matt and Steve for taking the time to travel to Pittsburgh where they capitalized on the networking opportunities, particularly with Carnegie Mellon personnel. Steve Smith of Carnegie Mellon has already visited the Da Vinci campus since that time.
- Chet thanked Don for his continual assistance with the City of El Segundo.

**Discussion Items**

**1. Financial Report (Tom Cox, Matt Wunder)**

- Matt reported that Da Vinci is staying within budget and will end the school year at 0 or at a slight surplus, even though there are positive and negative variances for individual line items.
- Tom Cox explained that the second interim budget is required by the county and the guidelines and assumptions are dictated by the county.
  - Originally the assumption was a loss of \$350 ADA per student, but an additional \$80 is now anticipated. This equates to approximately \$100,000 and will be covered by another year of enrollment growth.
  - There was a consensus among Board members to build the budget based on the worst case, and to provide the county with the most pessimistic scenario. As part of an updated budget in May, there will be a listing of items to add back should there be a more favorable revenue stream,
  - For the current year, a cut of \$250-250 ADA was anticipated, but it ended up at \$60 per ADA.
  - Next year, the government is threatening a \$4.8 billion cut from schools if the tax initiative does not pass. Should the tax pass, there will not be a cut, and flat funding is anticipated.



- Tom pointed out that grant money goes into the 501(c)3 account and does not help the balances on the financial statements, even though it supports programs for the students.
- Reserves of \$1.5MM net decreased to \$1MM due to \$500,000 for special education.
- Tom explained that 40% of the state revenue due June 30 will not be received until July, requiring school districts like WSD to borrow to cover the timing difference.
- There will be no capital expenditures since computers are in the 4000 accounts and are not capitalized.
- Matt explained that lost revenue of \$100,000 was related to not having full attendance the entire school year, and that more stable enrollment is expected in the coming year.
- Fundraising of \$150,000 is the combination of the \$25,000 Chevron grant and annual giving.
- Chet and Don both reiterated that this is the last year of revenue growth from adding a class, and that the pressure will be on expenses.

## **2. Unification Update (Tom Cox)**

- The District is holding meetings with Hawthorne, Lawndale, Leuzinger, and Centinela Valley to continue the unification dialog.
- The goal is to unify in 2014.
- Instrumental in the effort is David Walrath, who can advise how to maximize the benefits of unification with regard to state money for facilities, as well as in schools with flexible delivery methods.
- Unification will offer more options on the high school issue, with the overriding factor being “What’s best for the students?”. David Walrath is a good choice to develop a creative solution.

## **3. Real World Learning (Melanie Franko)**

- Currently 58 students participate in the Work Experience Program. It is exciting to see that the program is positive and beneficial to both sides – the students are learning and the businesses are benefitting from the students’ contributions.
- The students are proud and learning valuable lessons, as shown in the handout.
- After the initial phase of drafting documents and forms, marketing and recruiting businesses, and determining student placement, currently evaluations, adjustments in assignments and monitoring student attendance are crucial.
- Next steps will be to finalize the program with feedback, surveys, and testimonials, as well as an Appreciation Breakfast to take place Friday, May 18.
- Initial plans for the 2012-2013 school year include running parallel Work Experience Programs at Science and Design, in addition to participating in the Northrop Grumman HIP Program, and the Mattel Work Experience Program. Organizing and contacting the vast number of referrals and businesses in the surrounding communities will require a significant commitment of time.
- Summer internships are being finalized at Boeing and LMU.

## **4. Early College/Bachelors Degree (Matt Wunder, Dr. Tex Boggs, Steve Anderson)**

- Matt introduced Dr. Tex Boggs of Antioch University to discuss collaboration between Antioch and Da Vinci to establish a Bachelors Degree program for Da Vinci students, which would begin with dual enrollment classes in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Da Vinci.



- Dr. Boggs explained that Antioch would empower and hire Da Vinci teachers as adjunct professors, and Steve would assist with the training.
- This program gives students the option of graduating from college more quickly at a lower cost. The students gain confidence in their ability to be successful in college by enrolling in dual credit courses while studying in their familiar high school environment.
- Matt introduced the concept of a third charter, which could be part of the Bachelors program, in order to accommodate the growth model

#### **5. Other (Matt Wunder)**

- Matt expressed his gratitude to the three principals who consistently devote themselves to Da Vinci, and to Tom Cox, whose work on behalf of the charter authorizer, guides Da Vinci's ability to serve its students in such a meaningful way.

#### **Closed session**

#### **Action Items:**

See attached list of Board Approvals

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.