



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2012**

Board Members Present:

Chet Pipkin, President
Don Brann, Vice President
Cheryl Cook, Secretary
*Gary Wayland, Treasurer
Art Lofton, Member

*via phone conference

Staff Present:

Matt Wunder, Executive Director, Da Vinci Schools
Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn School District
Tom Cox, Wiseburn Chief Business Official
Colleen O'Boyle, Principal Da Vinci Design High School
Nicole Tempel Assisi, Director of New School Dev. and
Principal, Da Vinci Innovation Academy
Nathan Barrymore, Da Vinci Design High School Teacher
Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Director of Business Operations
Sharon Coulter, Director of Development

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on November 14th, 2012, at Wiseburn School District Board Room, 13500 Aviation Boulevard, Hawthorne, CA.

Approval of Minutes

September 17th, 2012 minutes were corrected and approved.
First: Art Lofton; Second: Cheryl Cook; Motion carries.

From the Board

Don reflected on the changes in the financial landscape with the passage of Measure CL, which finally gives the district discretionary funding, and Prop 30, which gives the district some financial relief. Based on positive statements by a legislative analyst that the California budget forecast has improved sharply, there appears to be a more positive outlook for California.

Action Items

See attached list of Board Approvals.

Discussion Items

1. Northrop Grumman Presentation

- In recognition of a grant recently awarded by Northrop Grumman, representatives presented Da Vinci with a check for \$75,000 for the new hybrid school.

2. New School (Nicole Tempel Assisi, Nathan Barrymore)

- The goal is to not just help students get into college, but to help them complete college.
- Besides the financial hurdle, there is a need for stronger math and English skills, which could be accomplished by a double block schedule along with the use of technology and close relationships between teachers and students.
- Options would be a 5 year plan to receive an AAT (Associate Degree for Transfer) through Foothill College or to complete a Bachelor's Degree through Antioch.



- The new school would combine blended learning with project-based learning.
- The overall budget would be comparable to the current high schools with less spent on teachers for 11th and 12th grades, but more spent on computers.
- One of the biggest issues is facilities, since the use of Antioch space may not prove to be the optimal solution.
- Another issue is whether the state will pay for the fifth year. This may be feasible if the student has not completed all graduation requirements after four years, and if the student has not been previously retained. This issue will continue to be researched by Nicole and Nathan.
- Two issues that will most concern parents are the location of the facility and who will run the program.
- In terms of crucial dates, it is important to participate in the March 7th lottery in order to avoid competition between the high schools. This would require road shows to take place in January and February. Therefore, the leadership and the facility need to be decided by December 31st, 2012.
- Tom Cox clarified that the facility location determines the authorizer, which would be a driving force. The facility on Douglas Street cannot accommodate the new school.
- Nicole voiced her concern as to how the type of facility and its location affect school culture, which has been a crucial key to success for the current high schools. Chet expressed the Board's confidence in Nicole's abilities to lead the new school development project.
- Two major areas of concern outlined by Gary are the cost of the space and the overall funding model. Nicole explained that it has not yet been decided whether to begin with only 9th grade, or whether it is advantageous to open the school with both 9th grade and 11th grade. The student population will be similar to the two existing high schools, with a full cohort of 136 9th graders.

3. Financial Update (Tom Cox)

- Moving forward, Tom cautioned that grant expenditures should match grant revenue. All grant monies will go into the 501(c)(3) account, with checks written as needed.
- Prior to actions approved at this meeting, 2012-13 Net Income was \$365,000. Of the items shown under "Staff recommendation regarding projected surplus", Item A (charge-off of Next Generation salaries) and Item F (reserve for future programs/compensation/other issues) will be put on hold until the Governor issues the January report. This will result in \$230,000 in reserves.
- The audit report will be released December 15 and reported to the Board in January.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, the next Board meeting date was scheduled for December 10th. It will be a luncheon meeting from 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.