



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2013**

Board Members Present:	Staff Present:
Don Brann, Vice President	Matthew Wunder, Executive Director, Da Vinci Schools
Art Lofton, Trustee (via cell)	Chris Jones, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, WSD
Cheryl Cook, Secretary	Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn School District
Brian Meath, Treasurer	David Wilson, Director of Budget & Accounting, Wiseburn School District
Israel Mora, Trustee	Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Business Manager, Da Vinci Schools
Jennifer Morgan, Trustee	Nathan Barrymore, Principal, Da Vinci Communication
	Kate Parson, Principal, Da Vinci Design
	Michelle Rainey, Principal, Da Vinci Innovation Academy
	Steve Wallis, Principal, Da Vinci Science
	Miles Denniston, Charter School Management Corporation
	Vince Madsen, Director of Facilities Planning, Wiseburn School District
	Rebecca Murday, Teacher, Da Vinci Schools
	Kim Merritt, Teacher, Da Vinci Schools
	Jaime Hernandez, IT Director, Da Vinci Schools
	Carla Levenson, Enrollment, Da Vinci Schools
	DIVA students and their parents
	Jhezrel Valentine, Executive Assistant, Da Vinci Schools

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Dr. Don Brann.

Approval of Minutes

September 19, 2013 Minutes approved.
First: Israel Mora; Second: Cheryl Cook; Motion carries 4 – 0

Board Approvals

September 19, 2013
First: Israel Mora; Second: Cheryl Cook; Motion carries 4 – 0

Approval item #9
First: Israel Mora; Second: Cheryl Cook; Motion carries 6 – 0

(Brian Meath and Art Lofton were not present for the earlier board approvals, which carried 4-0.)



From the Board

Mrs. Morgan reports that she went on a tour for the Design and Communication schools. It was great. It was interesting to see.

Mr. Mora reports that he's toured Science and DVIA and is looking forward to touring the other schools.

Dr. Brann reports that he is interested in the outcome of the Philanthropy Roundtable. Dr. Brann wants to let everybody know that he intends to adjourn the meeting in honor of Ray Haynes. Stating Ray was with us five years ago, at our beginning and has given some much along the way. Dr. Brann is really saddened by his passing, but feels tremendously blessed by the gifts he left behind – stating we will build upon it to make it a stronger organization.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Presentations

201 N. Douglas

Mr. Madsen reports that they've brought in New Vista Design. Also, that they have been spending days talking to the staff, specifically regarding what are Da Vinci's program requirements; the culmination of what came out of the old model; and what does the classroom of the 21st Century look like. The outcome from these discussions was they decided to stack each floor so that each school ends up having its own floor; Planned so that each school can be its own community. The final step is putting it in front of principals.

Some of the key principles that Gensler brings is that it should be an authentic building: Gensler wants something that will stand out while showcasing what is being revealed inside of building. Also taking into consideration that the social aspect of 21st Century learning is collaboration – Gensler wants to make sure it stands out; that there are program elements that are built to the program. They want the building to be a bit larger. They want it to be a community landmark. Mr. Madsen states they want to figure out how we orientate the building taking advantage of natural lighting. Mr. Madsen says they need to figure out how to cut out the building: Cutting off about 100,000 space of footage.

Mr. Lofton asks if we are making any kind of trade for budgetary reasons or do we have enough money to do the things you really want to do.

Mr. Madsen states that based on the footage they were able to give them what they needed, further stating that they haven't compromised anything, although it's driven the budget up a bit.

Mr. Mora clarifies that the theater is not simply a theater, but more of a multipurpose room.



Mr. Madsen states that taking 80 feet off the Douglas side of the building gives them the footprint that we need. The square footage is being moved to 220,000 feet, which is our target. Mr. Madsen further states that the architect is really trying to use the space. The building is being strategically produced. Each floor will end up with 4 small neighborhoods.

Mr. Madsen adds that the second floor is for the Science site because they will need more breakout space. The Design school is on the top floor. Science has robotics and may need more space to be able to set up some of their big events and not have to go through the other schools to get there.

Mr. Madsen adds that they want to make sure there's a statement when you're driving down Douglas.

Mr. Madsen states that with value engineering and budget control, they're making sure they put the dollars where they need to be.

The third level is where Communications will reside.

Mr. Madsen states that having the flex space will enable Da Vinci to bring industry to us rather than Da Vinci going to them. Also a community space where the school can be locked down and the community can still access the space that's self sufficient. The theater is designed as a flat floor, theater in the round.

Dr. Brann states this is going to be one of the premiere projects in America. Also that it looks like we're going to be able to accommodate these tours. Also have space to provide professional development for teachers across the region.

Communications

Mr. Barrymore reports that they are envisioning Da Vinci beyond grade 12. Further stating that students admitted into DV Communications will enter for 5 years.

Mr. Mora is excited about the concept. Stating that we need kids focused on the studies first and monies second.

Dr. Brann states, "I'm really glad it's being tackled. In the L.A. Times an article talked about it." Further stating, "It's only fair that we look for a way to win for all. For some students this would be a 15th year. I think it's really clever to shift the burden from the family." Dr. Brann has been over to El Camino a lot lately and states they're spending three years or more because of the remedial work on the front end. Concluding he wants to be kept informed about the progress.

DVIA Presentation

"How can we use a design process to teach our kids how to design? We're going to talk about the design process. We're bridging the gap between school and home learning."

DVIA students present to the board a variety of examples of problems and solutions in the design process.



Dr. Brann states that “speaking on behalf of the board, we like it when we get reports from the students.”

Annual Report

Dr. Jones reports that the Annual Report was created to have data that was already created, available to have. Further stating that the one thing that has struck him the most is the openness, which is a part of the report.

Dr. Brann asks if this document is separate from the state’s accountability report. To which Dr. Jones replies, yes.

Dr. Jones states that with regards to our graduates, we are trying to gather information that is readily available to the public. Further clarifying that DVS is Da Vinci Schools, in general. Dr. Jones points out that the information in the report is all related to last year – so you will not find DV Communications in this document.

Dr. Jones states that one of the things that they really valued was the SAT scores. Dr. Jones explains that the average score for SAT is below the national average. He further states that he wants it to be understood that this will be an annual event and also be a midterm report. “This will not be a data dashboard. These are the indicators that happen over time that we feel are important. We will continue to update twice a year.”

Dr. Brann states, “It’s been a long time since he’s seen anything come across this substantial.” Dr. Brann concludes that this is really impressive.

Dr. Jones states that he is really looking forward to adding the 4 year report. “It’s really an important piece because it’s all about the culture.”

Dr. Brann suggests that if there could be a type of summary at the front of the each chapter that we could draw something out of, it would enhance it more.

Dr. Jones states that they are also very open to information that is superfluous information.

Dr. Brann states that there is a section that talks about regions and neighborhoods and that it is very impactful information. Dr. Brann concludes that this is tremendous work.

Financial Update

Mr. Denniston reports that three are broad buckets: CalPads; accounting level reporting & budgeting; and reporting type issues. Mr. Denniston is trying to get more revenue for Da Vinci. He is continuing to work with the District on the budgeting piece. Mr. Denniston is working on a few last questions about where the specific entry should go.

Dr. Brann suggests that in the current climate nobody really knows what will happen. Surmising, there’s no right answer right now.



Mr. Mora says he'd like to see a side by side comparison.

Mr. Meath states that there's still a difference of opinion in estimate (Between Mr. Denniston and Mr. Wilson).

Mr. Meath asks do you think we're at a point that we can just have the principals look at the numbers. Continuing, can you break it up per ADA based on the totals of the students?

Mr. Mora states, "We talked before about having a study done on staffing ratios. That would be valuable information going forward."

The principals are asked: "What clarity do you need from the board."

Mr. Meath states that he'd take out the CSI money.

Mr. Meath says the principals should use up to 85%.

Mr. Denniston and Mr. Mora each ask if it's 85% per line item.

The Board settle's on 85% of the Totals.

Mr. Meath asks how do we work out who's handling the expenditures?

Mrs. Rainy states that in terms of staffing ratio and what's important, as an organization we rely on the teachers.

- ✚ The board concludes that they will bring it up in 30 days as an agenda item.
- ✚ Mr. Mora wants to see a side-by-side comparison of Mr. Denniston and Mr. Wilson's forecasts.
- ✚ Principals need financials as a management tool.

Closed Session

Entered into Closed Session at 7:43 P.M.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

✚ **Indicates action items**