



**RISE High Managers' Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 27, 2017**

Chet Pipkin, President	Matthew Wunder, Chief Executive Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Don Brann, Vice President	Chris Jones, Chief Operating Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Brian Meath, Treasurer	Kari Croft, Principal, RISE High
Jennifer Morgan, Secretary	Yolanda Saldaña-Bautista, Director of Employee Support Services, Da Vinci Schools
Roger Bañuelos, Trustee	Carla Levenson, Director of External Relations, Da Vinci Schools
	Tom Cox, Chief Financial Officer, Da Vinci Schools
	Steve Rabas, Director of Fiscal Services, Da Vinci Schools
	Alison Wohlwerth, Executive Assistant, Da Vinci Schools
	Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn Unified School District

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at **7:57 PM** by Mr. Pipkin.

On behalf of the Managers, Mr. Pipkin thanked the school leaders for all the work they do day in and day out, saying that there are few things as rewarding as watching them in action. Mr. Pipkin congratulated Mr. Scott Weatherford on his elevation.

Public Comments

No comments.

From the Managers

Mr. Bañuelos thanked Mr. Pipkin, Dr. Wunder, and Ms. Morgan for attending the RISE Bus Stop event. Mr. Pipkin said that it was wonderful to see the celebration of Kari and her team's great work, and the recognition of many dignitaries from the state. The highlight of the event was Kari and her staff and students. The event was videotaped so that others can see it.

From the CEO

No comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January 23, 2017 were approved with no changes.

First: Dr. Brann

Second: Ms. Morgan

Motion carries: 5-0

Presentation

Ms. Kari Croft thanked the Managers for attending the event, saying that it was powerful for the students to see how well-supported they are. Over 300 people were invited, and the event was packed. It was held at Lot 613, a venue in the Arts District in downtown Los Angeles. XQ Institute did a great job of planning, bringing in food trucks, a DJ, and a street artist who worked on a participatory art piece that the attendees helped create. Three students from diverse backgrounds gave speeches, two sang, and another choreographed a dance. The District Director from State Senator Holly Mitchell's office attended, as well as a representative from Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas' office, and Kevin De León, State Senate President Pro Tempore spoke. Dr. Debra Duardo, President of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, attended. Russlynn Ali, former Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education and current CEO of XQ Institute, and Laurene Powell Jobs, widow of Steve Jobs, attended, as well. Ms. Ali had not intended to speak, but once in attendance, was moved to do so, calling the students up to the stage and addressing them directly. Mrs. Powell Jobs expressed an interest in seeing the RISE High students in action at the school.

Dr. Brann asked if Ms. Croft had seen the front page of the previous week's El Segundo Herald newspaper, which featured an article on RISE High.

Financial Update

Mr. Cox said that Da Vinci is working with ExED to set up the financial system, at which point Da Vinci will be reimbursed for expenditures that Da Vinci has been paying on behalf of RISE High. This will probably take place in the next month. Dr. Wunder added that XQ will provide additional monies in March or April, and the remaining balance of the \$2M before June 30.

Discussion

Dr. Brann mentioned that as RISE High is located in California, it would perhaps enjoy greater attention from Laurene Powell Jobs. Dr. Wunder said that the RISE High Bus Stop event was the only one (of the several across the country) that Russlynn Ali and Laurene Powell Jobs attended. That could be partly due to proximity, but that he feels they and the XQ staff have a particular interest in this school, and will continue their extraordinary support of RISE High.

Dr. Wunder briefly discussed the waiver that RISE high has filed with the state Board of Education to place a resource center at A Place Called Home outside of the Wiseburn Unified School District's attendance boundaries. Dr. Johnstone has been putting in a lot of time and effort into this, and the hope is that the waiver will be granted, perhaps in May.

Board Approval

Item # 1 – Tawnie Black is the new RISE High English teacher. Mr. Cox reminded the Board that her employment has already been approved by the Managers, and that this approval is for the reimbursement of her salary to Da Vinci by RISE.

Approved as follows:

First: Ms. Morgan

Second: Dr. Brann

Motion carries: 5-0

Discussion

Ms. Morgan asked if the RISE High mobile unit is going forward. Ms. Croft answered that it would be put in play in the third or fourth year, because it is meant to be a supplemental resource once the other sites are established. The mobile unit will provide transportation and a way to meet students who are in between shelters. She added that RISE High is focusing on A Place Called Home because it has so many needed resources, but in the future, she wants to locate a site in Hollywood, as that is where the largest population of homeless youth reside. RISE High will be at A Place Called Home in Central Los Angeles for the first year and a half or two years. There will be two sites for RISE High: Da Vinci Schools and A Place Called Home.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **8:15 P.M.**