

APPROVED



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High)

Date and Time

Wednesday May 22, 2019 at 5:00 PM

Location

201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County ("DVLAC") welcomes your participation at its Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of DVLAC 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. Teleconferencing will be held at the below address(es). Members of the public attending a meeting conducted via teleconference need not give their name when entering the teleconference location. Locations: 5080 California Ave, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93309. Video Conferencing available through <https://zoom.us/j/749903515>.
 2. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.
 3. The Order of Business may be changed without notice. Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.
 4. Notice is hereby given that; consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only.
 5. "Request to Speak" forms are available to all audience members who wish to 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 on such comments. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Non-English speakers who use a translator shall have six (6) minutes in which to address the Board.
 6. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern. If you wish to be contacted, please indicate on the "Request to Speak" form.
 7. 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.
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8. 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.

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 Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County (201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA) 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

J. Morgan, L. Jennings, P. Escala (remote), T. Johnstone

Trustees Absent

N. Whiteman

Guests Present

A. Wohlwerth, Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, E. Whalen, K. Croft, Lauren Murray, M. Mayotte, M. Ring, Meika Nwaomah, Samuel Renteria, V. Bravo

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Jennings called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday May 22, 2019 @ 5:06 PM at 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. Dr. Jennings invited everyone to introduce themselves, as there were three guests in the room.

Dr. Tom Johnstone, Ms. Jennifer Morgan, Dr. Lida Jennings, Mr. Paul Escala, Mr. Vicente Bravo, Dr. Mary Ring, Mr. Erin Whalen, Ms. Kari Croft, Ms. Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, Ms. Lauren Murray, Ms. Meika Nwaomah, Mr. Marshall Mayotte, Ms. Alison Wohlwerth introduced themselves.

C. Approval of Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

II. Board of Directors' Comments and/or CEO/CFO Reports

A. From the Board

Ms. Lida Jennings commented on seeing the RISE High Exhibition at the Hawthorne site, remarking on the turnout.
Dr. Johnstone also saw the Exhibition and said the students did a great job, it's great for the families to see the students in this environment, and that it's a wonderful practice.

B. From the CEO

LACOE wishes the Board to move to monthly meetings.

Other items will be moved to the next meeting.

Dr. Wunder thanked Mr. Bravo for his help with LACOE.

C. RISE High Update

Ms. Croft gave a RISE High update, saying that there are 170 students currently enrolled. Students continue to show up for class, even those facing transiency, or moving due to placement or detention. (Students on probation may be detained. Some students have no say in probation violations; for example, if a student has no stable place to stay, they may be violating their probation and will be detained. RISE has been helping students through that, and has been gathering data on this issue.) Ms. Croft described one situation where a student returned to RISE High to attend classes daily after being released from detention. The impact is that students are attending more often, which is wonderful but is also suppressing the overall number of students we can enroll and serve on a campus at any one time.

Ms. Croft noted that RISE High was selected from across the nation as one of four Teach for America Schools To Learn From. RISE High hosted 50 educators from across the country for a two day summit at both the APCH and Hawthorne sites to share their experiences and practices. RISE faculty visited two of the other chosen schools as well, which were all middle schools, learning about their practices and cultures.

Dr. Jennings noted that it's been at least three or four years since a Los Angeles school was chosen as a TFA School To Learn From.

Ms. Croft spoke about the Spring Exhibition on May 15 and 16. The staff was really pleased with the student and family turnout, which was double the size of the turnout from the previous year. The Spring Exhibition is held annually.

Ms. Croft also described Career Readiness at RISE High. 17 students visited the L.A. Barber College, getting haircuts, learning about career paths and the science behind the profession. 14 students got to work with and learn from Me Undies designers in a multi-day workshop, designing socks that will be sold at Me Undies in September. In addition, cooking seminars are being held at both sites two days a week. About 11 students have passed the California Food Handling Test, opening the way for jobs they can hold now while they're in school. Finally, Ms. Croft described a student soon to graduate, who has taken the World of Work class, where students write their resumes, take mock interviews, access the professional clothing closet, and have been connected to internships and jobs. Close to 20 students have been able to secure paid internships this year.

Graduation is on June 12, 2019 at 7 p.m. at L.A. Southwest College. There was a brief discussion of which Board members are attending, and the possibility of adding a Board meeting to the calendar in June. Ms. Morgan unfortunately cannot attend graduation. Dr. Jennings, Mr. Escala and Dr. Johnstone plan to attend the graduation ceremony.

D. Financial Update

Mr. Mayotte gave the financial update.

April summary: Mr. Mayotte spoke of catching a \$200K error in the LCFF P1 calculation. CDE had RISE High registered under WUSD, with no mention of LAUSD, which affected RISE High's ability to collect concentration funds. CSMC, the back office provider, was notified of the additional learning center but didn't furnish the LAUSD address - only

Wiseburn's. Mr. Mayotte uses CSMC's CharterVision system, but also uses Excel, comparing the two results. This allowed him to see the discrepancy and catch the error.

Personnel costs, outside costs, and other expenditures are close to originally budgeted figures.

Operating revenue is where some variance exists; due to capacity limits, the ADA target was missed.

RISE relies on specialists that are outsourced, resulting in higher consulting numbers rather than higher salary figures.

XQ requested a budget draft be submitted by June 3. A June Board meeting is required to approve both the budget and the LCAP.

Mr. Mayotte briefly spoke about the May Revise. Additional SPED funds from the state might be available for high concentration schools such as RISE High.

RISE High has used \$3.2MM of the XQ funds, with \$6.88MM remaining
The budget format will be changed in 2019-20 so that expenses will be tracked by location.

Ms. Morgan asked about preventing another occurrence of the LCFF error or the like. Mr. Mayotte explained that as an accountant, there is a redundant procedure to run numbers outside the operating/accounting system and reconciling the differences. This was how he caught the error.

E. Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) Presentation/Discussion

Ms. Croft gave a presentation on RISE High's Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) Eligibility. The California Dashboard is the new state accountability system that was created for traditional schools with the adoption of LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula). The California Department of Education (CDE) created DASS as an alternative means of evaluation for schools that serve high-risk (non-traditional) students.

DASS replaces the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM), and holds alternative schools accountable for modified methods of measurement for accountability where the state deems it appropriate.

This allows alternative schools to measure metrics on the dashboard and get a much more accurate picture of how they are doing.
Yearly accountability process.

Some indicators are the same for alternative schools as they are for traditional schools.
As of fall 2018

academic indicators (ELA , Math CAASPP)

- Chronic absenteeism
- College/Career readiness
- English Learner Progress based on ELPAC results
- Suspension Rate

Modified indicators (as of Fall 2018):

- Graduation Rate - traditional schools' rate is calculated on a 4-year cohort that begins in the year that a student enters 9th grade for the first time. DASS schools' rate is calculated on a single-year, 12th grade only, cohort, regardless of when the student started 9th grade.

- Methods of high school completion - DASS schools can count students via standard diploma; high school equivalency certificate (e.g., GED); adult education diploma; early (grade 11) graduates; California High School Proficiency Exam; Special Education Certificate.
- The CDE may modify additional measures in the future.

DASS Eligibility:

A school must have an unduplicated student count of at least 70% of the total enrollment comprised of high-risk students such as the expelled; suspended 10+ days/year; wards of the court; pregnant and/or parenting; recovered dropouts; habitually truant; retained more than once in K-8; credit deficient; high transiency; foster or homeless youth; and those with enrollment gaps greater than 45 days.

RISE High's unduplicated count of high-risk students is currently 80.2%.

Dr. Ring commented that this DASS measurement is significant; the alternative means of comparison is key for Special Education as well, ensuring that schools are measured by appropriate means and not comparing them to traditional school models.

DASS eligibility was calculated in two ways: Primary, where each student was counted in only one category, and All, where students fell into multiple categories.

Many RISE High students meet multiple high-risk criteria: over half of students meet at least two criteria when they enter RISE, and over a quarter meet three or more criteria.

Da Vinci RISE High's Primary DASS Eligibility Summary, where students are counted only once in a category, shows the following:

Truant -13.6%

High Transiency - 27.2% (have attended 2 or more schools in a calendar year)

Credit Deficient - 14.1%

Enrollment Gap - 3.4%

Foster Youth -16.0%

Drop Outs - 1.0%

Homeless Youth - 4.4%

Retained in K-8 - 0.5%

Not DASS Eligible - 19.9%

Da Vinci RISE High's All DASS Eligibility Summary, where each student can count in multiple categories, shows the following:

Truant - 53.4%

High Transiency - 36.4% (have attended 3 or more schools in a calendar year)

Credit Deficient - 26.7% (this number is lower than the actual figure, as it is a snapshot; RISE has rolling admissions, and a by-hand count of credit deficient students showed the figure to be 60-70%)

Enrollment Gap - 17.5%

Foster Youth -16.0%

Drop Outs - 9.7%

Homeless Youth - 4.4%

Suspended 10+ Days - 3.4%

Expelled - 1.9%

Retained in K-8 - 1.0%

Not DASS Eligible - 19.9%

Ms. Croft thanked Ms. Gorla White, data coordinator, for her work on RISE High's DASS eligibility.

The Board discussed DASS and RISE High's eligibility.

Ms. Morgan clarified that the Board is certifying that RISE High is DASS eligible.

Dr. Jennings asked about the definition of high transiency, saying that she thought the other classifications led to high transiency.

Dr. Johnstone spoke of being shocked that other criteria (other than graduation rate) have not been modified.

Dr. Ring noted that more alternative school consideration will probably be seen in the future.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the March 29, 2019 Special Board Meeting

J. Morgan made a motion to approve minutes from the Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Special Board Meeting on 03-29-19.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

IV. Action Items

A. Certify Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) Eligibility

T. Johnstone made a motion to certify that Da Vinci RISE High is eligible for DASS.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

B. Approve Agreement between Da Vinci RISE High and USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the agreement.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

C. Approve XQ Grant Agreement Amendment

Clarifying information was given by Ms. Croft.

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the XQ Grant Agreement Amendment.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

D. Approve the CalSTRS Activation Packet

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the CalSTRS Activation Packet.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

E. Approve New Positions for 2019-20 School Year

Discussion on this item ensued.

The 2019-20 budget has not been presented yet, therefore it is up to the Board if they want to approve the positions without seeing the budget.

Dr. Johnstone spoke of the XQ funds, and needing to have

Dr. Wunder spoke of thoughtfully building out RISE High, and of worrying about staff bandwidth.

Dr. Jennings asked if the Board was comfortable approving the positions without having seen the budget. Dr. Johnstone responded that he doesn't want to see the RISE High staff decimated after four years (when XQ funding is used up). Dr. Wunder noted that building out thoughtfully, at full enrollment, the schools will be at break-even or close to it, and given the importance of the work, additional fundraising will be accomplished.

Dr. Ring said that she and Mr. Bravo met with Ms. Croft and Mr. Whalen to look at the positions and plan for the future. She explained that the Attendance and Enrollment Coordinator position is critical to compliance and that currently others are doing the work, but not as efficiently as one focused person would be. The team spoke to many stakeholders, and are convinced this position, as well as the second Behavioral Interventionist are crucial. Dr. Ring also spoke of the two-and-a-half day Program Specialist in Special Education (shared with Da Vinci Schools), saying that she herself and the Da Vinci Director of Special Education are helping to fill that role in addition to all their other duties. The need to build capacity with another Program Specialist is critically important to Special Education at both RISE High and Da Vinci Schools.

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the positions of.
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Approve Executive Director for the 2019-20 School Year

Dr. Wunder pulled this item, saying that it would require a material revision of the charter with LACOE.

Mr. Bravo said he discussed the material revision of the charter with LACOE executives, who indicated that the revision should be approved by LACOE, and subsequently approved by the DVLA Board.

In June, the charter material revision (including job descriptions, salaries, fiscal impact, and start date - positions would be retroactive to July 1, 2019) will be brought back to the Board for approval and forwarding to LACOE.

The Board approved having the RISE staff move forward with the material revision of the charter for the Executive Director and Principal positions, and presenting the revision to LACOE for approval.

G. Approve Principal for the 2019-20 School Year

This item was also pulled from the agenda. See note from Item H above.

H. Approve Being the Guarantor on a Line of Credit

Brief discussion on the line of credit ensued.
J. Morgan made a motion to approve.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

I. Accept April Check Register as Presented by Management

T. Johnstone made a motion to accept the April 2019 check register.
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

J. Approve 2019-20 Board of Directors Meeting Dates

Regarding the frequency of meetings, LACOE has requested more meetings to ensure business is done.

Start time of meetings was discussed: 7:30 a.m. - no decision was made.
J. Morgan made a motion to approve the 2019-20 Board of Directors Meeting Dates.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

J. Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Wohlwerth