



## Da Vinci Schools

### Minutes

#### Wiseburn + Da Vinci Joint Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Saturday June 8, 2019 at 8:00 AM

**Location**

Board Room, 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245

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Da Vinci Schools ("DV") 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 DV 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. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.
2. "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. 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.
3. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.
4. 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.
5. 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

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contact Alison Wohlwerth 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).)

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**Trustees Present**

B. Meath, D. Brann, I. Mora, J. Morgan, K. Brown, R. Bañuelos

**Trustees Absent**

*None*

**Guests Present**

A. Wohlwerth, Aileen Harbeck, B. Silvers, Dave Wilson, Jennifer Hawn, M. Mayotte, M. Rainey, M. Ring, M. Wunder, Neil Goldman, V. Bravo, Wendy Tsubaki

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**I. Opening Items**

**A. Call the Meeting to Order**

D. Brann called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Saturday Jun 8, 2019 @ 8:05 AM at Board Room, 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245.

**B. Record Attendance and Guests**

Dr. Brann spoke of his admiration and appreciation for the Da Vinci Schools graduation ceremonies held on Thursday, June 6, 2019, and the staff's work in executing them.

He also mentioned the Dana Middle School's graduation ceremonies to be held on June 13, 2019. Brief discussion on parking logistics ensued.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Brann pulled the communications plan discussion, saying that Carla Levenson was not present, and such discussion should include her.

The sole action item was pulled, as the agreement in the item had not been received in time to make the agenda packet.

Ms. Morgan made a request to discuss the school calendars.

B. Meath made a motion to approve the agenda.

I. Mora seconded the motion.

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

**D. Pledge of Allegiance**

**E. Public Comments**

Anne Tittle informed the Board that both the Dana Dolphin and the Da Vinci Wolf mascots will be present at the Dana Middle School graduation ceremony on June 13.

Bronwyn Shields, Cabrillo and Burnett parent, briefly spoke on Special Education's importance to families.

Sandra Shagat spoke at 9:36 a.m. on her concerns about the community's response to the use of the Del Aire site. She would like to work with Dr. Wunder on facilitating a positive experience for all.

**II. Information/Discussion**

**A. History of Wiseburn/Wiseburn Unified 1960-2020**

Dr. Brann spoke about the written history of Wiseburn School District, compiled in the 1961 master's degree thesis of Jack Good, Dr. Brann's 7th grade teacher, who later became an administrator in the Wiseburn School District. Dr. Brann wants the continued history of the District from 1960 to 2020 written, and has been seeking authors. Jean Merl will be touring the District to gather information and write the continuing history. Dr. Brann requested a small amount of money for the next two school years to help finance this project. The target delivery date is 2021, and he anticipates needing about \$5 - \$10K.

## **B. Del Aire Campus Overview**

Dr. Wunder and Mr. Bravo gave a presentation on the Del Aire campus. Thanks to the generosity of the Lundquists and Continental Development Corporation, Da Vinci Extension will be moving to a site on Rosecrans for the 2019-20 school year, which will decrease space needs at Del Aire where DVX students were once anticipated to locate.

Mr. Bravo spoke about moving RISE High and Connect to the Del Aire campus. The cost will be reduced from \$300,000 to \$166,400 due to the use of refurbished modulars with restrooms built in, as opposed to buying or leasing new modulars. Mr. Bravo and Mr. Fernandez will be visiting the SKC Company factory site in Perris, California to inspect the modulars before taking possession. He spoke of working with the Wiseburn facilities staff. The duration of the project is conservatively December 2019 to January 2020. The Board commented that the desired outcome is to move every school out of the Aviation site as soon as possible, so that the Aviation site can be demolished.

Dr. Wunder spoke of the Weingart Foundation's contribution of \$200K to move RISE out to their new site, and of the administration's search for additional funding, perhaps including a construction loan.

Ms. Rainey, Principal of Da Vinci Connect, described the three cohorts of Da Vinci Connect, a hybrid homeschool program. 200 students are on campus on either Monday and Thursday, or Tuesday and Friday, with a smaller number of students on campus on Wednesdays. A staggered drop off system has minimized the impact on traffic and the community. It consistently takes from 3:15 to 3:28 p.m. for all students to be discharged to their parents in the afternoons.

Discussion on the number of students on campus and community impact ensued. Mr. Mora requested future discussion regarding the maximum number of students on campus at any one time on the Del Aire campus. Dr. Wunder and Dr. Silvers spoke on the impact of the number of students on the community and the plan to communicate any large campus events to the community in advance.

Dr. Goldman asked Dr. Wunder to delineate all the programs currently in the Aviation site. Connect; DV Extension, which is a college program; RISE High student body consists of credit deficient students. RISE High's commitment is to serve 75 students in the WUSD. Connect will enroll no more than 250 students at any one time. DVX may need to return to the Del Aire campus or another Wiseburn campus when the lease at 2121 Rosecrans elapses.

## **C. Wiseburn Unified School District Fiscal Report**

Mr. Dave Wilson gave a presentation on the WUSD Fiscal Report. \$40K WUSD contribution to deferred maintenance for the pool, WUSD spends 2 to 2.5% of its revenue on maintenance, so anything not spent up to 3% is a State-required contribution to the reserve fund.

## **D. Da Vinci Schools Fiscal Report**

Mr. Mayotte and Dr. Wunder gave the Da Vinci Schools fiscal report.

Mr. Mayotte spoke about the increased costs to Da Vinci Schools due to the move into the 201 N. Douglas Street campus. Utility costs jumped, staffing had to be increased, custodial supplies increased, etc.

Mr. Mora complimented Mr. Mayotte on the innovation of looking at each school's budget individually, as opposed to one general overall budget, which is the normal method of school districts.

Dr. Wunder mentioned Carla Levenson's development work, saying \$2.2MM has been pledged.

All non-teacher expenditures divided by LCFF = 61.9% from 67.3% last year. Mr. Mayotte hopes to improve efficiency, and reduce the percentage further.

#### **E. New Da Vinci Schools Board Member Selection Process**

Dr. Wunder briefly spoke about the Da Vinci Board retreat on August 8, and a book he recommends, *One World Schoolhouse* by Salman Khan.

New Board member selection process was discussed. The Magna Carta's requirements were

By August, Dr. Wunder hopes to have a new member selected.

#### **F. Special Education**

Dr. Ring gave a presentation on the Special Education findings of Barber and Associates.

The report highlighted significant commendations of the special education department staff across the K-12 organization.

Dr. Ring spoke of both Boards' ongoing support for students with special education needs. Dr. Vicki Barber was hired to conduct an audit the Special Education programs at Wiseburn Unified School District and Da Vinci Schools for ongoing program excellence.

Dr. Ring gave the highlights of the audit.

Creation of one coherent system of education for all students. Research suggests how to achieve this.

1. Ensure ongoing and systemic implementation of pre-referral and intervention strategies. (Multi-tiered systems of support = the MTSS model)
2. We have a very complex system (multiple LEAs, etc) Bridging professional development plan that addresses the full range of audiences, both short term and long term needs.
3. Greater collaboration between HR departments of WUSD and DV for specific special education positions. Dr. Wunder introduced Dr. Jennifer Hawn, who will be the Da Vinci Schools Chief of Employee Support Services beginning June 24, 2019.
4. Renew focus on improvement for preschool students, aligning instruction/materials with statewide standards. Mr. Bañuelos asked about the tracking process among the WUSD and Da Vinci schools for special education students. Dr. Ring says that curriculum for these students is backward-mapped and benchmarked. Transition meetings are regularly held.
5. Review administrative structures and meetings for job-alike positions, SELPA consolidations, and support staffing.
6. Improve practices for data tracking of NPS students across the K-12 organization.
7. Continue to innovate - programs like Success Learning Center (in-house program that is lower cost, higher quality than outside programs previously used), summer intensive speech & language programs, tiered school-based mental health, PEERS social skills-trained Da Vinci and WUSD staff, and co-teaching models (a systematic approach to inclusion, modifying the teaching model). Dr. Ring credited the special education staff for the success of these programs.

Mr. Mora requested a deeper dive at a later point on mental health in the schools. Dr. Ring spoke on working with and educating staff and CSOs on anxiety disorders, etc. in the schools.

Mr. Brown asked about the number of students in Special Education. Dr. Ring responded that the population is currently 12-13% Special Education, which is at the statewide average, but a little higher in some populations (RISE). We should look at evaluation process; earlier intervention can help.

#### **G. General Oversight**

Dr. Silvers spoke on oversight, and the desire to balance oversight and partnership, and wanting to create a collaborative oversight process/matrix with Dr. Wunder and their respective teams.

Mr. Bañuelos commented that the existing charter needs to be considered. Dr. Silvers clarified that he and Dr. Wunder don't want to change the requirements.

#### **H. WUSD + DV Communications/Public Relations Plan**

This item was pulled from the agenda by Dr. Brann.

The alignment of Wiseburn and Da Vinci calendars was discussed.

Mr. Bañuelos asked why the District and DV school years don't start at the same time. Ms. Morgan commented that she recalled that the reason DV had to end at a specific time in June was that students wanted to take El Camino College summer classes. Mr. Brown commented that El Camino's calendar has changed in the last four years, and should be looked at again.

Ms. Morgan also mentioned that high school graduates face college orientation dates that start in June.

Dr. Brann asked for a one-page sheet delineating the rationale for various dates.

Mr. Mora requested an examination of facilities rentals in WUSD and Da Vinci. Rentals have the potential to be good revenue sources. Dr. Brann said that facilities rental prices have to be re-examined to turn a profit, given the costs to run the facilities.

Mr. Bravo spoke of the summer project where his team will streamline the rental protocols and processes.

Ms. Morgan asked about who is responsible for the facilities rentals. Mr. Bravo replied that it is a joint effort; Ms. Annie Aung at Wiseburn runs the athletics rentals, Ms. Carla Levenson and Mr. Bravo at Da Vinci field other requests. Dr. Silvers added that Ms. Aung was pivotal in helping Mr. Vince Madsen with facilities, which evolved into her fielding the athletics rentals, in part due to the compressed timeframe when the gymnasium came online.

Dr. Wunder said that his recollection was that the gym rental revenue would be used to offset escalating special education costs, but in the end it goes to the students.

Mr. Mora clarified that gym rental revenue would go to Da Vinci. He went on to say that the Boards want to do everything they can, but cannot do everything for everyone. He would listen to the student stakeholders, rather than the parents.

Dr. Goldman made observations on the vinyl covering on the gymnasium floor, voicing concerns on its durability over time, and the rental of chairs that should be specifically protective of the flooring, and insurance required of the rental companies. He also spoke about perhaps purchasing a stage as opposed to renting it.

Ms. Morgan spoke about the need to communicate about the athletics teams to the community. Dr. Brann commented that people are used to hearing about and participating in school sports.

The Soccer field was discussed. WUSD has secured a loan to finish the field.

Dr. Brann spoke about the L.A. Times owner, Dr. Patrick Soon Shiong's interest in using the gymnasium. Dr. Brann also said that the El Segundo Mayor, the city marketing director, and Dr. Soon Shiong and his team toured the gymnasium and school campus.

The visitors were impressed. Dr. Brann thanked Dr. Soon Shiong for his visit and that he looks forward to a partnership. Dr. Soon-Shiong told Dr. Brann that he was inspired and looks forward to working with us.

Dr. Brann spoke about the number of influential supporters and the potential naming rights for various projects like the soccer field. Dr. Brann suggested that if the soccer field doesn't have a specific date for completion, perhaps funding other than a loan could be pursued. Dr. Wunder spoke of Dr. Soon-Shiong's concern that a grass field would be better than artificial turf. Mr. Mora spoke of trying to get the field completed over the summer. Dr. Brann will continue his talks with Dr. Soon-Shiong.

The Cynara Lilly/RALLY report was requested to be sent out to Board members again.

Mr. Mora spoke of the missed opportunity in communicating to the community the benefits and great things going on. Dr. Goldman spoke of the LCAP requirement for community engagement.

Dr. Wunder spoke of the complexity of the messaging issue - of different brands and how to integrate them; of the huge community (including families from many zip codes at both Da Vinci and Wiseburn schools); Ms. Levenson has a huge job, handling fundraising, marketing, communications, having just raised \$2.6MM. If a junior-level staffer is hired, Ms. Levenson will still be doing the work. If a senior-level staffer is hired, the cost is greater. Dr. Wunder underestimated the cost for this position and hasn't had the time to talk to Dr. Silvers. \$25K was number given and budgeted for. (general laughter)

Mr. Mora stated that the lack of factual information on social media is detrimental when there is no counterbalancing. Mr. Bañuelos spoke of getting out ahead of the community and putting out information about the positive things. The Board asked for a dedicated plan, and the budgets. Mr. Brown asked if companies were considered as well as individuals. El Camino uses both - special events like graduation use companies for capacity and for occasional needs.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Joint Agreement - Wiseburn Unified School District and Da Vinci Schools**

This item was tabled until a later date, due to the agreement not having been received from legal counsel in time for the agenda.

### **IV. Closing Items**

#### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

The next Joint Board meeting will be on September 14, 2019.

Dr. Goldman made a comment on special education and general education, saying that earlier a comment was made that we have 10-12% students with unique needs but he believes that 100% of students have unique needs. His dream is to live in a time and place where there is no special or general ed, but that every student receives individual attention.

K. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

B. Meath 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 11:04 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
A. Wohlwerth