

APPROVED



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday June 26, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Location

Board Room, 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. Location: 1000 Vin Scully Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
 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.
 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
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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, N. Whiteman (remote)

Trustees Absent

P. Escala, T. Johnstone

Guests Present

A. Wohlwerth, Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, K. Croft, Lauren Murray, M. Mayotte, M. Ring, M. Wunder (remote), 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 Jun 26, 2019 @ 6:10 PM at Board Room, 201 N Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245.

C. Approval of Agenda

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the agenda.

N. Whiteman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

N. Whiteman Aye

T. Johnstone Absent

L. Jennings Aye

J. Morgan Aye

P. Escala Absent

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

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

A. From the Board

Dr. Jennings spoke about attending RISE High's graduation ceremony, saying that it was an emotional event, and underscored the importance of the school and the work of the students, faculty and staff.

Ms. Morgan spoke about meeting Beth Ryan from Stepping Forward L.A., who had great things to say about RISE, and who thought that Safe Place for Youth in Venice might be a great next site for RISE High.

Ms. Croft said that she and Mr. Whalen had spoken to Safe Place for Youth several times, but that the youth there are a bit older and have been out of school longer, so the fit isn't quite right for the current program at Da Vinci RISE High.

B. From the Leadership Team

Dr. Wunder said that the graduation ceremony was emblematic of the work Ms. Croft, Mr. Whalen, and the teachers and staff do every day. He spoke of the enrollment coordinator position that will give Da Vinci RISE High the opportunity to do even more recruitment among foster care and homeless students.

He acknowledged the hard work of Dr. Mary Ring and Mr. Vicente Bravo in supporting RISE High.

C. RISE High Update

Ms. Croft gave a RISE High update, speaking of the 22 (fall and spring) graduates who worked so hard to graduate.

She spoke with pride about the RISE High school culture, and about the cross-site field day, to get the students at both sites to meet. Over 60 students met in Del Aire Park, playing in a student vs. staff basketball game, having a barbecue, and participating in the DJ elective class. Ms. Croft said that it was remarkable to see students from different walks of life and different experiences and who some might say shouldn't get along with others, play together.

Staff will work to increase such opportunities for building cross-site engagement in the future.

Additionally, RISE High English teachers Ms. Lauren Murray and Mr. Brent Walmsley, along with an academic coach, took students on a UCLA college tour, for which signups filled up almost immediately.

RISE High students use the Kickboard app for positive behavior. Earned credits can be used in the students' store, or for fun experiences like buying whipped cream pies to put in a staff member's face at the end of the year. The incentive makes good behavior fun.

Dr. Jennings spoke of the DV RISE High Instagram account.

Ms. Croft also spoke of the Tiny House 2.0 project, crediting Da Vinci Science Principal Steve Wallis, teacher Andrew MacGregor, Mr. Wallis' dad, and the Science students for their work. RISE High students were involved with the design and construction of the mobile counseling unit, and students attended the banquet to cap off the project.

Summer School: 48 students are enrolled and attending every day for two weeks, averaging two credits per student in just a week and a half, indicating how hard they are working.

Teacher Ms. Meika Nwaomah spoke about the Beats Lab Partnership, where students met with music industry professionals. Students gained science credit for the experience with the partnership. Students gain knowledge in English, science, math, and coding.

Ms. Croft spoke about RISE High staffing. Cross-Site positions such as Principal, Assistant Principal, Coordinator of Services & Partnerships, Enrollment Coordinator, Psychologist, etc. will work with both Hawthorne and APCH sites. An additional case manager and academic coaches are being hired for the APCH site, and a Special Education teacher is being hired for the Hawthorne site.

Looking ahead, Ms. Croft spoke of feeling confident that RISE High can start the new school year with 200 students.

She spoke of the 2019 XQ Summer Exchange conference in New Orleans the third week of July, Fall professional development (July 29-August 9), and hosting a Board member Dinner or Luncheon. Ms. Croft will send an email to the board members with more information.

Mr. Whalen added that 13 RISE students have been invited to XQ Summer Exchange, more than any other XQ Super School, and every staff member invited has been asked to give presentations on topics such as Average Childhood Experiences in Trauma, Project-based Learning and Interdisciplinary Studies, Sustained Leadership in the Year Two, Personalized Learning, Targeted Literacy & Numeracy in Small Groups, etc.

D. Financial Update

Mr. Mayotte gave the financial update.

The total state funding amount has been corrected between P1 and P2 (from \$995K corrected to \$1.137MM).

He gave projected revenue and cost figures. Fewer XQ funds are being requested than projected. The difference will be shifted to another period. Mr. Mayotte spoke of lower than expected costs for outside services and higher than expected transportation costs.

Regarding June Financials:

The RISE LLC Short-Year (closing) Audit is being presented for approval. Both Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County and Da Vinci Schools boards are or have approved the audit; although DVLAC was not part of the RISE LLC entity, legal counsel felt it best to have both boards approve the audit. The June financials will reflect the transfer of balances from RISE LLC to DVLAC. The transfer was initially delayed since the assets could not be transferred until all debts were paid. All debts have now been paid.

Da Vinci Schools will issue two invoices to RISE: for centralized shared expenditures like the business office, and for school expenses like employee health insurance that is combined with the entire organization.

Regarding the Budget:

May Revise numbers were used (3.26% COLA, STRS contribution decrease to 16.7% in 2019-20, then will increase to 18.1% in 2020-21).

Changes from 2018-19 to 2019-20 include: Significant increase in LCFF revenue due to higher expected ADA, increase in personnel costs to support instruction, and increase in supplies and operating services due to enrollment growth and a larger special education cost cushion.

The budget format is changing to break out the sites and shared costs, resulting in more accurate forecasting.

Dr. Ring spoke about special education. The current special education percentage at RISE High is 23%, which is higher than other typical urban schools (13%), but is not unexpected due to the student population served by RISE High. Dr. Ring went on to say that the school's service delivery model is working well for students - it's less restrictive than others, and students are being placed appropriately. Costs are high, and will grow with the expected increase in students in areas such as speech/language, occupational therapy, and testing, but the program is staffed appropriately, innovative, and serving students very well.

Ms. Morgan asked about the staffing model for governance. Ms. Croft spoke of the material revision of the RISE High charter to be submitted to LACOE (graduation pathways, site locations, administrative positions, etc.). The material revision will probably be brought to the DVLAC Board in the Fall and then sent to LACOE.

Mr. Mayotte clarified in response to Ms. Whiteman's question, that because RISE is a non-classroom-based program, and there are limitations on receiving the XQ funds where 80% of total revenue must be spent on instruction. Because of ADA revenue, RISE High does not need all of the XQ funds up front. If RISE was a classroom-based program, the funds could be received and held.

Brief discussion on transportation was held, with Mr. Mayotte speaking about sharing the overall costs with Da Vinci Schools athletics program; however, the costs are so far expected to be astronomical, therefore Mr. Mayotte is seeking other solutions. Ms. Croft added that they are working with APCH's shuttles.

V. Bravo arrived late.

E. MOU Review & LACOE Non-Compliance Letter

Dr. Ring spoke about the LACOE letter, and LACOE's request to review the MOU and fiscal responsibilities of Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County. The Board has been provided the MOU and the non-compliance letter, and moving forward, the board and staff have responded to LACOE's requests.

Ms. Morgan spoke of taking any non-compliance issues very seriously, and wanting to know how the administration is dealing with them. Dr. Ring spoke about Special Education's Performance Indicator Report and the resulting corrective action taken last fall (two students were missed).

Mr. Bravo spoke of LACOE's concern with RISE High not making a required charter material revision for governance, which has been resolved; the MOU and fiscal responsibilities issue; and the fiscal and governance review. Regarding financial non-compliance, Dr. Ring spoke of LACOE's concerns on the budget changes. Mr. Mayotte added that some of LACOE's concerns revolved around timing such as the delay in the delivery of the short-year audit from the auditor and having to wait for debts to clear before transferring assets from RISE LLC to DVLAC. Mr. Bravo added that the administration is learning to work with LACOE and keeping them apprised of events.

Dr. Jennings asked how the Board can be helpful to Mr. Mayotte. He responded that he believes things will improve going forward, with just one back office and consistent data.

Dr. Ring added that the frequency of board meetings will be helpful, and the dedication and commitment of the board is appreciated.

Ms. Whiteman reiterated the Board's desire to be supportive and kept apprised of situations in advance.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the May 22, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

L. Jennings made a motion to approve minutes from the Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 05-22-19.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

L. Jennings Aye

T. Johnstone Absent

J. Morgan Aye

N. Whiteman Aye

P. Escala Absent

IV. Action Items

A. Election of Brenda Freiberg to Board of Directors

N. Whiteman made a motion to approve Brenda Freiberg as a new member of the Board of Directors of Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

T. Johnstone Absent
L. Jennings Aye
J. Morgan Aye
P. Escala Absent
N. Whiteman Aye

B. Election of Aurea Montes-Rodriguez to the Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board of Directors

J. Morgan made a motion to approve Aurea Montes-Rodriguez as a new member of the Board of Directors of Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County.

N. Whiteman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

N. Whiteman Aye
T. Johnstone Absent
J. Morgan Aye
P. Escala Absent
L. Jennings Aye

C. Approve 2019-20 LCAP for Da Vinci RISE High

J. Morgan made a motion to approve.

N. Whiteman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

P. Escala Absent
L. Jennings Aye
N. Whiteman Aye
T. Johnstone Absent
J. Morgan Aye

D. Approve 2019-20 Budget for Da Vinci RISE High

L. Jennings made a motion to approve.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Morgan Aye
N. Whiteman Aye
L. Jennings Aye
T. Johnstone Absent
P. Escala Absent

E. Accept May 2019 Check Register as Presented by Management

L. Jennings made a motion to approve.

N. Whiteman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

N. Whiteman Aye
P. Escala Absent

J. Morgan Aye
T. Johnstone Absent
L. Jennings Aye

F. Approval of 2019-20 Consolidated Application for Pursuit of Title Funding for Da Vinci RISE High

J. Morgan made a motion to approve.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Approve the Use of 2019-20 Education Protection Account Funds on Teacher Costs

J. Morgan made a motion to approve.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings Aye
N. Whiteman Aye
J. Morgan Aye
P. Escala Absent
T. Johnstone Absent

H. Accept the Short-Year Audit of Da Vinci RISE High as Presented by Management

Brief discussion of personnel costs - a board member misread "personnel" as "personal."
The audit is a "short-year" audit due to the changeover from one authorizer to another.

L. Jennings made a motion to approve.
N. Whiteman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings Aye
N. Whiteman Aye
T. Johnstone Absent
P. Escala Absent
J. Morgan Aye

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

J. Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

T. Johnstone Absent
L. Jennings Aye
J. Morgan Aye
P. Escala Absent
N. Whiteman Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Wohlwerth