



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2012**

Board Members Present:

Chet Pipkin, President
Don Brann, Vice President
Cheryl Cook, Secretary
Gary Wayland, Treasurer

Staff Present:

Matt Wunder, Executive Director
Nicole Tempel Assisi, Principal-DVIA
Steve Wallis, Principal-Da Vinci Science
Colleen O'Boyle, Principal-Da Vinci Design
Tom Johnstone, Wiseburn Superintendent
Tom Cox, Wiseburn Chief Business Officer
Melanie Franko, Executive Assistant

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chet Pipkin at 7:06 a.m. on February 14th, 2012, at Wiseburn School District Board Room, 13500 Aviation Boulevard, Hawthorne, CA.

Approval of Minutes

November 1, 2011 minutes approved.

First: Gary Wayland; Second: Don Brann; Motion carries.

Discussion Items

1. Financial Report (Tom Cox, Matt Wunder)

- Discussion regarding the financial statements:
 - Tom Cox commented on the complex cash flow and explained the deferrals.
 - Next year will be a challenge:
 - Approximately \$146,000 in federal revenue for “Ed jobs (2 counselors)” will disappear, but \$137,000 in Other State Revenue should continue.
 - Due to decreased state revenues, there is a potential loss of \$370 per student.
 - Da Vinci has one more year of student growth which will fill the gap.
 - County has requested multi-year projections that reflect the \$370/student cut in revenue.
- Explanation of the audit:
 - The audit went very well - Da Vinci Schools received a clean audit with no changes from the report distributed to the Board.
 - The only finding was related to items purchased before official approval was received, but there was always informal approval in place.
 - The next audit in May will focus on attendance and independent study.
- Update regarding the determination letter:
 - Initial approval for independent study was for 80%; appeal has been sent requesting 100%.
 - Law requires 85% of revenue (not expenditures) be spent on instruction and instructional materials; surplus worked against them.



- Update regarding facilities:
 - The number of students accepted is dependent upon the facilities available.
 - They are still working with SELPA and expect a call from the county with a proposal as to the number of rooms available.
 - Tom anticipates six portables will be necessary.
 - The negative impact on WSD is the loss of \$119,000 per year in rental revenue received from SELPA.

2. Washington D.C. trip - Update (Steve Wallis, Matt Wunder)

- Jack McManus and Ray Haynes could structure a unique trip, given their contacts and knowledge of public policy.
- The 20 students involved are U.S. History students who are receiving dual credit for Antioch 102 and U.S. History.
- Fundraising would approximate \$2,000 per student, which Board members felt would be hard to achieve in a short period of time.
- The consensus of the Board was for the program to move forward as long as it remained “budget-neutral”.
- A final decision will be made March 15th, based upon funds raised as of that date.

3. Real World Learning (Melanie Franko)

- Marketing materials:
 - A one-page marketing piece provides a brief description of the Work Experience Program, with a full description of the various Real World Learning components on the back.
 - For those businesses unfamiliar with Da Vinci Schools, a complete folder providing background information on the Da Vinci Board, staff, students and educational programs will be provided.
- Program Highlights:
 - DIRECTV has provided volunteers at Science and mentors at Design.
 - Boeing will include Da Vinci in the schools selected to participate in their extraordinary summer internship program.
 - Deutsch will host 25 Design students for a day to teach them about the world of advertising (breakfast, lunch and transportation provided by Deutsch).
- Work Experience students:
 - Though a student survey indicated a strong interest in medical office placements, it is unlikely that this will be possible due to confidentiality issues.
 - A dress code will be implemented for the Work Experience Program with special Real World Learning polo shirts to be worn with khaki or dark pants (no jeans at the request of the businesses).



- Hurdle - Agreement between Da Vinci Schools and the participating businesses:
 - Businesses were reluctant to sign the first agreement recommended by the risk manager.
 - An informed consent format was just received from the risk manager. Businesses should find it acceptable. It will be signed by the participating organization, student, parent, and Program Director prior to a student beginning an assignment.
- Other information:
 - Projected expenditures for 2011-12 are \$12,000.
 - A request for referrals will appear in the newsletter. Don Brann recommended Ashcroft Design, an excellent placement for Design students, and SCROC as a possible resource.
- Real World Learning Program approvals requested and received (approvals 8, 9, 10, 11):
 - Boeing Summer Internship document
 - Resolution for Executive Director's approval of all future documents (not necessary)
 - CCSA Informed Consent and Agreement for the Work Experience Program
 - Verification that Workers Compensation covers students in the Work Experience Program

4. Approvals Requested (Matt Wunder)

- All expenditures on the Board Approvals list are covered in the budget except for item #6.
- Approval #6, the opportunity for seniors to attend the YMCA Youth and Government program in Sacramento, has received philanthropic funding this year.
- See the master list at the end of the minutes for specific motions.

5. Other News (Matt Wunder)

- Visitors from China recently observed Da Vinci's project-based learning program. They were advised to visit Da Vinci's highly successful high school program by Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo professors prior to visiting the college campus.
- Da Vinci Schools will be featured in a chapter of a book on Educating for Creativity, written by Robert Kelly, PhD and Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary.

6. Early College/Next Generation Learning Challenge (Matt Wunder)

- A focus and continuing theme of Da Vinci has been college persistency, with the goal to provide education from kindergarten through college.
- In an effort to establish an Early College program, Da Vinci is currently participating in the application for a Next Generation Learning Challenge (NGLC) grant via the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. There are two NGLC grants: IIIa and IIIb.
 - IIIa is a K-12 grant which Da Vinci has applied for that attempts to blend project-based learning with online content (blended learning), and extends DVIA to the high school level.
 - IIIb looks at innovative solutions to reducing the college dropout rate.
 - IIIa is \$150,000 plus a \$300,000 matching grant opportunity; IIIb is \$1,000,000.



- The NGLC goal - to promote college readiness and completion, particularly among low-income students, via the applied use of technology – aligns with Da Vinci’s mission and vision.
- The efforts to establish an Early College Program have resulted in a partnership with Antioch University LA, a high quality university that is committed and mission-aligned with Da Vinci.

7. College Counseling

- Da Vinci Science (Tristen Gire):
 - The acceptance rate for the senior class is 73%. Most have multiple acceptances.
 - 15 students applied to the UC system for which a 3.0 is required, and decisions will be received the end of March...
 - 4 students have under a 2.0 G.P.A.
- Da Vinci Design (Colleen O’Boyle):
 - There have been 45 college representatives visit the campus.
 - Design students have applied to the summer programs at Princeton, Carnegie Mellon and the UC COSMOS program, among others, and 4 students are candidates for a Riordan program.
 - Students in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades all took the Princeton Review Assessment, which helps determine whether the SAT or ACT would give the best results.
 - Tutors from El Camino College provide students with assistance in math.
 - There are currently two courses on campus taught by the Pasadena Art Center. Don inquired regarding the possibility of a relationship with FIDM.

8. What Difference Do We Wish To Make? (Matt Wunder)

- It is important to adopt a Da Vinci document that conveys the Da Vinci principles and beliefs. As Chet explained, it is the DNA of the organization.
- In February or March of 2013, there will be a full WASC study, and the study will start and end with this document.
- Metrics will be the next critical step in order to tie data to the domains of quality.
- Don made a motion to approve this document, with Cheryl as second and unanimous approval.

9. Independent School Expansion (Matt Wunder)

- This is a program to review, but it is not time-sensitive.
- The initial issues to resolve in exploring the possibility of a learning center is whether it is legally viable and whether a Da Vinci team can be used to provide high quality instruction in this type of arrangement.

10. Unification (Tom Johnstone)

- Centinela Valley is willing to work with Wiseburn, and the concessions made by both sides are the first of a three-prong approach to achieve unification.



- The second prong is legislation that was introduced January 25 to codify Wiseburn's concessions which include WSD taxpayers paying off existing bond measures from 2008 and 2010. It is hoped that legislation will be passed by the end of September.
- The third prong is to gain approval from the California Department of Education.
- Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Leuzinger, the other three feeder districts, still oppose the plan.

Closed session

Action Items:

See attached list of Board Approvals

Deferred Items:

IT Department Mission Plan
Enrollment Update and Strategy

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.