



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 23, 2017**

Chet Pipkin, President	Matthew Wunder, Chief Executive Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Don Brann, Vice President	Nathan Barrymore, Principal, Da Vinci Communications
Brian Meath, Treasurer	Kate Parsons, Principal, Da Vinci Design
Jennifer Morgan, Secretary	Steve Wallis, Principal, Da Vinci Science
Roger Bañuelos, Trustee	Kim Merritt, Director, Da Vinci Extension, Da Vinci Schools
Israel Mora, Trustee	Chris Jones, Chief Operating Officer, Da Vinci Schools
	Yolanda Saldaña-Bautista, Director of Employee Support Services, Da Vinci Schools
	Carla Levenson, Director of External Relations, Da Vinci Schools
	Natasha Morse, Director, Real World Learning, 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 **6:00 P.M.** by Mr. Pipkin.

**Closed Session**

Meeting entered into Closed Session at **6:01 P.M.** to discuss personnel.

**Reconvene for Public Session**

Meeting entered Public Session at **6:33 P.M.**

**Presentation**

**Board of Regents Capital Campaign Subcommittee – Jennifer Cole**

Mr. Pipkin introduced Ms. Jennifer Cole, a member of the Da Vinci Schools Board of Regents, who is representing a subcommittee spearheading the Capital Campaign for the new facility at 201 N. Douglas Street. The subcommittee has established a goal of 100% participation from the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees, as this would engender a positive response from potential supporters. She reported that currently, 10 Board of Regents members have committed to participating, and two Trustees have participated as well. Ms. Cole asked Dr. Brann for a list of potential El Segundo businesses that could be approached, and indicated that Carla Levenson and Sharon Coulter would provide further information on how to participate. After an informal consensus of the six Trustees present, Mr. Pipkin

said the subcommittee could expect 100% participation from the Da Vinci Board of Trustees, saying that he would vouch for the seventh Trustee.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Andrew McGregor, Da Vinci Science math teacher, addressed the Board, regarding his son, Daniel, who in 2014, was diagnosed with leukemia. Mr. McGregor described his son's treatment history and how Dr. Wunder contacted him, as usual, near the year-end holidays, asking about his family and how Da Vinci Schools could support Mr. McGregor. Mr. McGregor asked for some time off, saying that while it was helpful to go to work every day, his family did need to spend time at the hospital. The Board approved the extra time off, giving him the ability to be with his family and not worry about finances. Mr. McGregor described the Board's and Dr. Wunder's approach as a valuing of people over programs, for which he was very appreciative. Mr. Pipkin said that Dr. Wunder and Mr. Wallis have kept the Board updated on Mr. McGregor's family situation, and that the compassion and support from the entire Da Vinci family has been a natural response.

### **From the Board**

No comments.

### **From the CEO**

No comments.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from December 14, 2016 were approved with no changes.

**First: Mr. Meath      Second: Ms. Morgan      Motion carries: 5-0; 1 abstention**

### **Financial Update**

Mr. Cox said that the California Governor's report has been released, and the school is expecting less state support for the next year. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be finalized at the end of May, and Mr. Cox is not expecting funding to close the LCFF gap. The COLA is expected to be smaller than hoped. Mr. Cox corrected a typographical error ("parcel" corrected to "partial") on page 1 of the finance report. Reserves will be increased due to expected one-time expenditures, and the budget is on track. Dr. Wunder informed the Board that XQ/RISE High grant monies have been received, and that the schools have been invited to apply for further charitable funding.

### **Board Approvals**

**Item #2** – Mr. Bañuelos asked Mr. Cox if the Christy White audit report opinion is qualified or unqualified. Mr. Cox responded that it is unqualified.

**Item #8, 9** - Dr. Brann asked why these items are on the Da Vinci meeting agenda instead of the RISE agenda. The answer is that they pertain to employees currently on the Da Vinci payroll. Next fiscal year they will be RISE employees.

**Item #10** – Ms. Morgan asked why the first day of school has been moved back a week to August 22, 2017. The answer is that it is meant to give a cushion for the opening of the new building, and is for one year only. Mr. Bañuelos asked if this meant a delay in construction. The

answer is everything is still on schedule; the extra time is to make sure the school is presentable. A ribbon cutting ceremony and Open House is planned for August 12, 2017. Mr. Bañuelos asked about the alignment of the Da Vinci and Wiseburn first days of school. This year, due to the change of Da Vinci's first day of school, there will be a one-week difference (as opposed to two weeks) between the Dana Middle School and Da Vinci first days. Mr. Bañuelos would like to see the Da Vinci delayed opening made permanent.

**Approved as follows:**

**First: Mr. Mora      Second: Mr. Meath      Motion carries: 6-0**

**Presentations**

**Daycare Presentation – Schehrezade Lodhy, Lynn Rodriguez, Kat Ramos**

A proposal for Da Vinci Pups daycare was presented. The Da Vinci staff has been surveyed, and research has been done. Survey results: 32 staffers who have or are planning to have children responded. Of those, 20 would be interested in a Da Vinci staff day care program. Most of the survey respondents said their children were in child care 8 – 10 hours per day, 5 days per week. Costs for that child care ranged from \$600 to \$2,500 per child per month. Part-time care ranged from \$250 to \$500 per child per month.

The staff hope to create a child care program that includes:

- Two age groups (two licenses)
- Use of the Del Aire campus
- Infant care
- The program would use a curriculum that matches Da Vinci signature practices
- A shuttle to and from other Wiseburn schools
- Flexible hours
- Affordability

Ms. Morgan asked if a Da Vinci child care program would accept children of non-Da Vinci employees. The response is that the staff would not want to take anything away from other programs like Wiseburn's. Dr. Wunder added that there is a possibility that licensure would not be necessary if the program was only open to Da Vinci employees, and of a small size. Dr. Brann had earlier put forth the argument that opening a more permanent program to non-staff members would address any Da Vinci/Wiseburn attrition that occurs to fill the spaces. Dr. Johnstone added that there will be a turnover of a number of Wiseburn teachers in the next few years, leading to the hiring of teachers whose children may be natural candidates for a child care program. Mr. Bañuelos asked about the fee structure. Dr. Wunder responded that they were looking at user-pay or a combination of user-pay and employer contribution. Mr. Bañuelos asked if users would be interested if the program was not licensed. The program would have to be licensed, per regulations. Mr. Pipkin said that he is familiar with the YMCA and the licensing requirements. He said that the current model for the YMCA is that of a partnership with area schools. He asked if the staffers were looking at a co-op model, where Da Vinci provides the location and the users run the program, or if they were looking for Da Vinci to run the

program. The staffers are leaning toward the co-op model. Mr. Pipkin said that the Board would be open to learning more about the options as the staffers continued their work.

#### **Career & College Readiness Plans – Chris Jones**

Each of the three Da Vinci high schools qualified for specified state funding for College Readiness. Each school will receive \$75,000, to be used over three years (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19). Da Vinci high schools as a whole will receive a grand total of \$225,000. This information will be brought back to the Board for approval in a future meeting.

#### **Metrics – Chris Jones, Gloria White**

Traditionally, California schools have focused on three types of data when measuring student outcomes: test scores, attendance data, and grade data. The state is now looking for college readiness data, which Da Vinci has been measuring for some time. A-G completion, SAT/ACT scores, college acceptance rates, career/tech education/real world learning data have been measured since Da Vinci high schools have had graduating classes. The state will expect all LEAs to be able to show A-G readiness, SAT/ACT scores and college acceptance rates. The state now has access to National Student Clearinghouse data, based on college loan payment data. That data now has a 90% accuracy rate. But Da Vinci has gone further, looking at data that has been untracked by any other agency or group: college enrollment, college persistence, and college return rates. Ms. White has been figuring out how to more deeply track and analyze the data.

Previously, we were using data from Naviance (college acceptance data); senior exit surveys (which school students planned to attend); informal alumni updates; and National Student Clearinghouse data (which wasn't very accurate until recently). There was no K-12 link. Last year, with the accuracy of the clearinghouse data and Da Vinci's use of Schoolzilla and Salesforce (alumni, partner/donor data tracking), we have better, more actionable data.

Ms. White presented sample Schoolzilla reports reflecting Da Vinci's class of 2012 to class of 2016. These were active reports looking at first year college results, including demographics like gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English learner status, parent education; school choice (two-year and four-year school attendance, or no college enrollment). The Schoolzilla software gives users the ability to look for patterns in the data on the fly. For example, looking at college persistence rates, 89% of Da Vinci class of 2013 students who started at a CSU returned for a second year of college, and 85% returned for a third year. National data for class of 2013 show 70% of students return to college for a second year. Users can look for trends and patterns in the data. Dr. Jones added that this is the first time anyone has looked at this; college persistence data is the "holy grail," and other organizations are eager to find out what Da Vinci (and the small group of schools that Da Vinci is talking with) is doing to obtain it. He warned that this is really new data, and figuring out what it means and how to act on it is something that will need to be examined. Ms. White has talked to State researchers and others at conferences who are interested in the work.

Moving forward, Da Vinci's alumni coordinators, who are contacting students who drop out of college, are getting the story behind the numbers to give it context and reveal further patterns. Ultimately, the

goal is to find out what the most important data is, and what is actionable. Dr. Jones thanked Ms. White for her work.

**New Campus Update** - Kate Parsons, Nathan Barrymore, Steve Wallis

The 201 team has met to discuss furniture, specialty labs, calendars, admin hours/coverage, bell schedules, facility maintenance plan/security, summer of 2017 programs. The team then took questions from the Board.

Ms. Morgan asked about walking paths for students – was there a subcommittee to examine student safety as they walk to school? Dr. Brann has talked to the El Segundo City Planner, who is new, but is going to look at the situation. More Wiseburn residents than permit students will mean more students walking or being dropped off. Lack of parking will necessitate different dates for Back to School Night, Exhibitions, Open House, etc.

A barrier on the street to prevent left turns out of driveway has been discussed with the City of El Segundo, but they have been resistant. Dr. Jones is hopeful that the matter can be addressed, due to the potential impact on neighboring businesses.

Mr. Mora asked about furniture purchasing. Furniture selection is in final stages; purchasing is on track for the February deadline.

Ms. Morgan asked about Da Vinci Extension. Ms. Merritt responded that DVX will use the new facility at night. End times for extracurricular activities will need to be strictly enforced. Utilities such as lights, HVAC, etc. and their costs will also have to be considered.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.