



# Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes June 25, 2013

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Staff Present:
Don Brann, Vice President	Matthew Wunder, Executive Director, Da Vinci Schools
Cheryl Cook, Secretary	Chris Jones, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, WSD
Israel Mora, Trustee	Tom Cox, Chief Financial Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Art Lofton, Trustee	Steve Wallis, Principal, Da Vinci Science High School
Brian Meath, Trustee	Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Business Manager, Da Vinci Schools
Jennifer Morgan, Trustee	Wendy Tsubaki, Superintendent's Secretary, Wiseburn School District

# Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:29 P.M. by Dr. Don Brann.

## **Approval of Minutes**

May 13, 2013 minutes were approved.

First: Israel Mora; Second: Art Lofton; Motion carries.

#### **Board Approvals**

Approval of item #1, and item #2

First: Cheryl Cook; Second: Art Lofton; Motion carries

Items up for approval.

First: Jennifer Morgan; Second: Brian Meath; Motion carries:

## **Special Presentation**

No presentations.

#### From the Board

Mr. Mora shared how great the graduations were. He enjoyed them very much. Mr. Mora is very proud of Da Vinci's hard work and accomplishments. He is very happy to be a part of it.

Ms. Cook is a proud mom of a graduate. Ms. Cook thanks the Wiseburn School District Board and the Da Vinci Board on behalf of all parents and the graduations were beautiful and she feels happy and privileged.





Mr. Lofton last week had the pleasure of briefing the CEO of the Corporate Leadership Council -- Corporate Review -- on the great work at Da Vinci. He is so grateful to be a part of all of this. In five years things have changed so much. So many times you do things and you don't get to see it come to fruition and this is a clear example of watching it come to fruition. The iPads, the Innovation Lab – everyone is very proud and appreciative! Thanks to Chevron as well!

Dr. Brann shared that June 6<sup>th</sup> was an incredible day. It was a proud moment and gave us a time when we could see all of our hard work pay off and it was just really hard to let the seniors go after putting so much energy in and to know they are going off in 100 different directions but at the same time this is our first cycle through and the freshmen are coming and it's what it's all about. It feels so comfortable with the graduates that they're going to get out and make the future better for everybody. This is what we started out to accomplish five years ago. We did it but we're not done. The best years are ahead. Just have to keep working hard together to get there.

Dr. Brann shared that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is going to appoint him as State Administrator and Trustee in Inglewood Unified and if Governor Brown signs the legislation to exempt me from the salary limitation that came about in the fall -- limiting STRS retirees from making over \$40,000 -- it will only pertain to me in the State -- then I will be signing a contract with the California Department of Education to start on Monday, the first day of the new school year. Let me give you an explanation of why I might do this:

I am always up for a challenge. I am always trying to change the future to make the world a better place. I have lived my life all about this. There is a pretty big city in Inglewood that deserves a decent school system and somebody needs to help them out. It is the most messed up district in the thousand that we have. Tom Torlakson asked me to help out. I like the fact that the Board has been rendered powerless. That Board is advisory. All votes will be won, 1-0. I like the fact that the digging has stopped, but they are deep in a hole. If I can keep my pension then I will be doing this for an under market price. They need a break. I'm going in alone. There is no one there I know or trust. I will start trying to fill the hole. I wanted you to know about it. It is an "E" ticket ride. I'm not sure if it will be Adventureland or Fantasyland. I might have a CHP security deal. There is an element of danger in it. I'm going to put to test all of my 30 years of experience and make a dent and move the needle. They deserve a shot. I have never taken on anything like this before.

<u>Introduction of Jennifer Morgan</u> – Dr. Brann states that when Mr. Wayland resigned priority was to get people from the community. People in the community didn't understand Da Vinci. We needed someone from the community who understood Da Vinci. Jennifer Morgan is from the community. Scott and Jennifer have one student at DVIA and one in the high school. Jennifer is a lead parent within





the district and it's very helpful to have Jennifer on the Board. Her interests are very appreciated. We think you are going to enjoy this very positive experience.

Ms. Morgan has kids in both schools, went to these schools and graduated from Hawthorne High School. Jennifer knows where Da Vinci's roots are and was a part of the naming of the school. Ms. Morgan looks forward to just being a part of the team. Ms. Morgan just wants to make sure she has all of the facts, so she'll have some homework to do.

Dr. Brann states that sending your children to the schools gives the Board direct feedback and Cheryl did that and it is great to be able to continue that.

Ms. Morgan was moved emotionally at the Da Vinci Innovation Graduation and was so happy to see what they were able to do -- to hear the students talk about what they wanted in the future and being a part of something great. The teachers and staff make the kids feel confident and comfortable.

<u>Introduction of Brian Meath</u> – Dr. Brann states that Mr. Meath had 13 years in Wiseburn and he made a tremendous difference. He was a tremendous help to both Tom and I with anything related to program planning and budgeting. He is extraordinary. Mr. Meath still owns residences within Wiseburn and was elected 3 times to the Board so the community knows him. He is better known than most of the people who do live here.

Mr. Meath states that he was always looking for a way to reconnect to Wiseburn. Mr. Meath was around at the beginning of Da Vinci and it has grown so much. The Board did a wonderful job and he is excited to be a part of this chapter.

# **Closed Session**

Entered into Closed Session at 6:39 P.M.

#### **Open Session**

Returned to Open Session at 7:24 P.M.

#### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.