



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2013**

Board Members Present:
Don Brann, Vice President
Cheryl Cook, Secretary
Israel Mora, Member

Staff Present:
Matthew Wunder, Executive Director, Da Vinci Schools
Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn School District
Dave Wilson, WSD Budget/Accounting Director
Nicole Tempel-Assisi, Director of New School Development and
Principal, Da Vinci Innovation Academy
Nathan Barrymore, Principal, Da Vinci Tech High School
Lianne Lau, Executive Assistant

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. on March 15th, 2013 at Wiseburn School District Board Room, 13500 Aviation Boulevard, Hawthorne, CA.

Approval of Minutes

January 31st, 2013 minutes were approved.
First: Israel Mora; Second: Cheryl Cook; Motion carries.

From the Board

Israel Mora shared that March 14th, 2013 was the Grand Opening of Wiseburn's Burnett Elementary School's Multi-purpose room that has been dedicated and named after Don and Sari Brann. Don was speechless and shared that it was one of the greatest days in their lives.

Tom Johnstone shared that there will be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) hearing for the new high school facility next Thursday, March 21st at 6 PM. Tom shared that this process has been going on since last July and an EIR has to be prepared if there is going to be a significant effect on the environment. Since we are a school district, there are more variables they need to consider such as a traffic analysis; Tom shared that Wiseburn has made the point that traffic on Douglas is currently at 20% of its capacity and since the Air Force has a 7 AM arrival and Da Vinci Schools has a 9 AM arrival, there would not be a conflict. Tom shared that Wiseburn is anticipating clearance by April 20th and Wiseburn is currently working with the city of El Segundo to see the possibility of unifying the two communities and potentially building a 50 meter pool since there is only three in the city of Los Angeles. Israel shared that this is exciting since this could make the high school a bigger hub for the community.

Cheryl welcomed Israel to the board. Cheryl also shared that when she saw the list of DV college admittances she felt great pride and joy in being a DV parent and for being a part of this organization.

Matt shared that Gary's board leadership paved the way for college counselors and Colleen developed the model. Matt explained that most traditional and private schools do not have more than two college counselors for a student population a little over 500, additionally most counselors like those at Mira Costa have multiple roles. Matt shared that college admissions are about relationships and there is a huge



amount of work to make it small and personalized for students so they can be matched to the right college and be successful. Matt shared that students need different levels of support and we need to figure out a plan to make sure we get kids through college. Matt will be bringing forward a comprehensive plan within the next year to make sure we follow through with our commitment to holding onto our kids and getting them through college. Matt anticipates that we will significantly need to reinvest our time and resources to Early College and 5th year programs; however, he feels that we are the right organization to do it.

Don shared that he is amazed that in a couple of months, Da Vinci will graduate our first full class. Wiseburn School District has enabled Da Vinci to move rapidly to the next levels without the hassle that typically comes with getting authorized, so Da Vinci has the perfect formula for doing these great things like not just helping our students to graduate high school, but to also earn a Bachelor's degree.

Matt shared that during a Da Vinci site visit with Educause, Dr. Griffith who is opening a new charter school in San Diego stated that she couldn't believe that the superintendent is sitting with us in a cooperative and supportive manner. Matt shared with her that it is because of our relationship we have been able to accomplish so much quickly. Tom Johnstone shared that the reason why we do it is because of the kids – we're not interested in fighting, but working together.

Action Items

See attached list of Board Approvals.

Discussion Items

1. Approvals

- a. Israel asked if the budget in our books is reflective of the changes in approval and Dave shared that it currently is not, but it will be updated.
- b. Don shared that he would like to pull off #10 to discuss separately.
 - i. Susan Andriacchi resigned under the direction of WSD attorney. Tom Johnstone shared that this is a very unique situation because of the relationship between WSD and DV. Tom shared that we will be getting our charter renewed in the next couple of months and it would be great to have someone who has been with DV since the beginning, however Tom shared that the attorney's are skeptical while Matt shared that is a difference of opinions. Israel shared that he will commit to a trial year and then he will decide.
 - ii. Israel shared a concern from WSD's board of a pending memorandum of understanding between WSD and DV that needs to be finalized; DV currently does not have any residents from the community on DV's board and WSD would like to see two community members sitting on their board.
 1. Cheryl questioned why we have not been able to get someone in the community and Don shared that we have been very cautious of who we would elect and then the idea of WSD board dual-membership came up and we pursued it.
 2. Cheryl recalled that we had names at one time and Matt shared that he will be sharing one in closed session.

2. Financial Update (Dave Wilson)

- a. The state continues to defer and cash flow still remains an issue. Last month we were low, but then money was transferred to the charters (2 months early). Dave shared that he is



monitoring this. Gary will be collecting the revenues and making the deposits at the bank so we should balance out. Dave shared that a large portion will be paid in June and the rest in Aug/Sep (35%). Israel asked Dave if we have received this transaction yet and Dave shared that we have and are fine. Additionally, Israel asked about the status of bringing the two charters to one and Matt responded that he has talked with Greg Moser and they are coming closer to becoming one organizational unit, Da Vinci Schools, with separate charter petitions for DVIA, DVS, and DVD. Matt shared that it all comes together with the reauthorization of charters and then splitting the umbrella. There are still ongoing questions with county regulations and STRS. Matt shared that there was a requirement at the time the PCGSP grants issued \$600,000 for each school, but it may not be the case now.

- b. Dave shared that the updated second interim report will reflect the changes in approvals.
- c. Dave shared multi-year projections for 2013/2014 and we need to be at target level in 7 years. He isn't sure how this is going to work out, since there may be a gain in the charters, but there is not much analysis.
- d. DV went through a modified determining process yesterday and hopefully will get approved for 4 years. Israel asked how would this affect us and Dave shared hopefully DV will get approved and we can amend to get an extra 80-100K since Independent Study is currently under the 20%.
- e. Israel noted the budget surplus and how we currently do not have any staff recommendations. Israel questioned whether we will need to spend this money since we are currently paying some salaries from this grant, while we may not be able to do it next year. Dave shared that we paid for BTSA since those with Teach for America were making the minimum salary and this is in our budget for next year.

3. New School Update (Nathan)

- a. Nathan shared that while at the CCSA conference in San Diego there was a lot of excitement around the opening of the new high school.
 - i. Nicole shared that Nathan was invited to be part of the selection committee to inform others what they should share regarding blended learning for their workshops. Nicole stated that the California Charter School Association conference is much larger than the National Charter School conference, so Nathan should be commended for being selected to be part of this committee.
- b. Nathan shared that we have found locations in West LA and Antioch, however there was a possibility with Wiseburn. Nathan felt that since we are trying to fulfill the needs of Wiseburn SD, we should go with their location option.
 - i. We will have a small cohort of 64^{9th} graders housed in three bungalows at DV Design.
 - ii. The new high school will fulfill the needs of Wiseburn when it becomes a separate school.
- c. Nathan shared that the new high school will combine both project based learning as well as blended learning – there are not many schools doing this; the only one we know of is Summit Prep.
 - i. Nicole shared that Nathan has an amazing vision of bringing it together and will just need to focus on how it will look like in Math, History, English, etc. since we will need to think about all of the subjects differently.
- d. Nathan shared that Design is a short term solution and beneficial since the new school can work with Design team member's experience and resources.
 - i. Tom Johnstone shared that John Fernandez will work out all the electrical to ensure that the units can operate.
 - ii. Nathan shared that he is facilitating the hiring process for all of DV interested candidates. He has received about 500 applications for DV Schools and shared that it is tough to tell if someone is actually good based solely on their resume.



1. Nathan is bringing in nine individuals at a time for hiring symposiums.
- iii. Nathan is also working on naming the new high school
 1. The direction of the new high school is a Humanities and Communications focused academy since it gives a broad focus.
 2. These two identities (Humanities and Communications) are areas that have not been incorporated with DV Science and Design.
- iv. Tom Johnstone shared that he has started to think about the new high school housing 1200 students and feels that if there are going to be over 1250 students, then there will be many more problems.
 1. Matt shared that he hopes to get a clear signal about funding from the state to be able to reduce class sizes and overall school size. However, Nicole shared we already are at 35 students per class in the 9th grade.
- v. Don shared that meeting with Andy Caulkins will be great since this is a growing relationship. Matt shared that he hopes that we would start dual-enrollment in the 11th grade and start beginning to improve the model of dual-enrollment and not delay in providing a robust college program.
 1. Don asked if Nathan and Nicole would have the bandwidth to create course plans at Science and Design, so they can also become 5 year high schools.
 2. Nathan shared that he would absolutely go there, however it will depend on the students needs. Nathan shared it would be best for them to attend Science and/or Design and then jump over to the new school if they want to pursue that option.
 3. Don shared that this will impact the number at the school site and Nathan stated that he'll have to look at the numbers. Nathan reiterated that the 5th year is always only an option and is not forced upon the student.
- vi. Cheryl shared that this sounds exciting and is happy of all the progress that has been made. Don shared that we worked through 5 out of the 6 road blocks and he is also really excited and optimistic.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.