



Meeting of the Board
Board of Trustees Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2017

Don Brann, Vice President	Matthew Wunder, Chief Executive Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Brian Meath, Treasurer	Chris Jones, Chief Operating Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Jennifer Morgan, Secretary	Eugenio Villa, Chief Financial Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Roger Bañuelos, Trustee	Nathan Barrymore, Principal, Da Vinci Communications
Israel Mora, Trustee	Kate Parsons, Principal, Da Vinci Design
	Michelle Rainey, Principal, Da Vinci Innovation Academy
	Steve Wallis, Principal, Da Vinci Science
	Kim Merritt, Director, Da Vinci Extension, Da Vinci Schools
	Kari Croft, Principal, RISE High
	Erin Whalen, Assistant Principal, RISE High
	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
	Steve Rabas, Director of Fiscal Services, Da Vinci Schools
	Alison Wohlwerth, Administrative Manager, Da Vinci Schools
	Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn Unified School District
	Mary Ring, Executive Director, Project Development, Wiseburn Unified School District

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Dr. Brann.

From the Public

None

Closed Session

Meeting entered closed session at 6:03 PM.

Reconvene

Meeting re-entered Public Session at 6:43 PM.

Reporting Out

Dr. Brann reported that in Closed Session, the Board took action to ratify the termination of a certificated employee. Ratification vote 5-0 (For: Brann, Meath, Morgan, Mora, Bañuelos; Against: none)

From the Public

Dr. Brann offered the opportunity for more comments from the Public. None were given.

From the Board

Mr. Mora gave a construction update: everything looks good and the building is on schedule. Ground has been broken on the pool and gym, but is two weeks behind due to the recent heavy rain. The project is still anticipated to finish on time (January/February 2018). The official pool groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 27 at 4 PM.

Mr. Bañuelos thanked the staff and faculty for their work with the First Robotics Competition (FRC). He is proud of the team's efforts this past weekend at Cal State University Long Beach. The team won five of six matches on Saturday; ending in 5th place out of 60 teams. They did not make it into the finals, but won the Engineering Inspiration award, which earned the entire team the opportunity to go to Houston, Texas for the FRC championships. NASA is providing the team with a scholarship to attend the championships.

Dr. Brann said that the thing that impressed him the most about Da Vinci students at the Grand Rounds event and FRC is their public speaking ability. He also mentioned the Da Vinci enrollment lottery, and the number of El Segundo residents who won a place in the high schools (three; two of whom had enrollment preferences). That is as expected; it is difficult to win the lottery. Dr. Brann will check with the Wiseburn Unified School District permit office to see how many students have requested a release to attend El Segundo High School. He doesn't believe that El Segundo residents enrolling in Da Vinci Schools is the problem some are saying it is. Dr. Brann also said that it is more evident as time goes by that Da Vinci students have a solid path toward college and career. He went on to say that the opening of the new high school campus on August 22 will be a huge event for the district, and that he hopes it will receive a lot of media coverage. This will be a place that few charter schools in the country can match.

From the CEO

Dr. Wunder said that in 2007, we wanted schools that prepared students for college and the real world, and included career pathways. The State has recently had that same vision, and their funding has shifted to allow for career pathways. Dr. Jones and the principals have been working on a soon-to-be-released RFP for career pathway facilities, teacher credentialing, and program implementation. Da Vinci has doing this, but now must adjust the method to the way the State is requiring. Therefore, the Board will be presented in the future with a request for CTE grant writing funds for perhaps \$90,000. These grants could potentially garner \$2.5 million if every pathway is qualified. Dr. Jones clarified that there are many unknowns, and the RFP has not yet been released. He is appreciative of the work done thus far by the principals and teachers in looking at obtaining credentialing for a career technology education program. This is key not only for this grant but for other future funding opportunities. In February, the

Board approved \$12,000 for grant writing (with Educational Research Consultants) to apply for one grant, but there is a potential to apply for as many as nine. The same consultant wrote the CTEIG grant as well.

Carla Levenson gave a Development update, saying that various capital campaign pledges have been fulfilled. Continental Development Corporation donated \$100,000; the Pipkin Family Foundation donated \$50,000; and Balfour Beatty donated \$10,000. Belkin has initially pledged \$500,000 for in-kind technology, which may end up being much more, when considering the value of the items. Dr. Wunder added that the value of the donation has yet to be determined, but expects it will exceed \$500,000. Mr. Vince Madsen is working with the contractors for a credit in regards to technology infrastructure needs. Ms. Sharon Coulter is working on the Keck Foundation application for the third funding wave. She has asked the principals to prioritize their wish lists for their specialty and science labs.

Northrop Grumman approved \$600,000 for a three-year Cal Poly San Luis Obispo/Northrop Grumman/Da Vinci Science partnership. Northrop Grumman is also supporting development of the Northrop Grumman Innovation Lab 2.0.

Dr. Brann asked for an update on the Enrollment Lottery in an upcoming meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 27, 2017 meeting were approved with no changes.

First: Mora

Second: Bañuelos

Motion carries: 5-0

Financial Update

Mr. Eugenio Villa, in his first report as Chief Financial Officer, thanked Mr. Tom Cox for maintaining Da Vinci's sound fiscal policies and reserves, and for facilitating a smooth transition of officers. Mr. Villa presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2nd Interim Report, saying that the report, required by Education Code §47604.33, provides an opportunity to assess the financial health of the organization. There is a net increase of \$46,000 in LCFF State aid versus the 1st interim period, due to slight changes in the base and supplemental funding. Federal revenues have been adjusted downward. As for state revenue, CTE Grant monies of \$297,156 will be spent over three years; \$197K will be rolled over into future years.

Mr. Bañuelos asked if the grant monies were designated for career pathways or for some other use. Dr. Wunder replied that these funds were operational funds for career pathways, versus the funds that Dr. Jones mentioned earlier in the meeting which were for career pathway startup costs like equipment and facilities.

Mr. Villa noted the 1st interim report didn't recognize Capital Campaign Funds, but the 2nd interim report does recognize those funds and new building non-capitalized equipment expenses. Also noted is \$150,000 reimbursed from RISE for startup costs, legal fees, etc.

There is a net projected increase of over \$1 million in revenues over the 1st interim period.

Changes in personnel costs result in a net increase of \$130,000 in spending. The net increase in the Books & Supplies category of \$759,000 corresponds to the increase in Capital Campaign revenue.

The net increase in the Services & Other Operating Expenses category of \$114,000 is largely due to a decrease in e-rate, which in turn is largely due to the decrease in Free and Reduced Lunch. (Dr. Jones put in that e-rate is not being funded in the same way as before.) Legal expenses have been lower than expected.

Summary: The Da Vinci Schools are in a good financial position, with projected revenue and expenses very similar to those in the 1st Interim report.

Dr. Brann said that under Mr. Tom Cox's advice, money has been set aside in anticipation of increases in the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). Mr. Villa indicated that based on the current rates, Da Vinci has set aside money to cover two years of STRS increases, and assuming a sufficient surplus, he anticipated continuing to do the same as the years go on, until the increases cease.

Upcoming: 2017-18 budget

Mr. Villa would like to work at least three years in advance, using a multi-year projection. He discussed enrollment projections and using them to anticipate revenue and expenses, and how faculty retention results in higher salary expenses over time. Being able to project out well in advance will help in budget forecasting.

Mr. Mora asked what portion of the surplus is one-time money. Mr. Villa said he would bring the analysis back to the Board. Mr. Mora asked if Mr. Villa anticipates the plateau lasting – Mr. Villa said that the state will experience budget pressures – rate of growth will rely more on COLA. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Villa's report was praised.

Presentations:

Wiseburn Da Vinci Athletics Update – Dr. Jones says CIF Sports is very involved, very complex, very rule-driven world. We wanted to create a thoughtful, competitive, healthy program that serves students well. For the past two years of varsity sports, the learning curve has been huge, but we are finally feeling more stable, thanks to three key people: Athletic Director Michael Prendergast, who has put in long hours and much labor, and Jamie Larson and Korey Laude, who are not only coaches but support for the Athletic Director. Annie Aung, the Assistant AD, has also been key in making sure referees are paid, contracts are executed, etc. Over 200 students are participating, and teams are evenly split between genders – we are very close to achieving Title 9. The Da Vinci sports are: cross country, track, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and archery; there are five boys' teams and five girls' teams, and a co-ed archery team.

Ms. Larson coaches girls and boys volleyball. The Athletics department uses a collaborative spreadsheet for student rosters, student grades for eligibility, transportation and referees. They are also using software developed by the CIF called Home Campus which links to the CIF website for the generation of contracts and schedules. Mr. Prendergast has talked to our Enrollment Coordinator regarding the use of SchoolMint, our enrollment software platform, so that families can digitally upload athletic contracts and physical results. Mr. Laude, who coaches volleyball with Ms. Larson, discussed attending basketball, volleyball, and soccer games at Dana Middle School, partly to see what is going on with their program and partly to make Da Vinci Athletics more visible to Dana students and families. Dana athletes are also being invited to Da Vinci games. Da Vinci Athletics is looking to hold summer classes for skills building

and maintenance for Da Vinci AND Dana students. Mr. Prendergast said that next year Da Vinci will be playing in the Mulholland league (Animo, Environmental Charter, Pacific Lutheran, Ambassador, Summit View West, and Shalhevet) which is a league for small schools in the South Bay. He anticipates being competitive in every sport in the Mulholland league, and looks forward to CIF finals next year. Da Vinci will be playing in the Mulholland league for the next 4 years, then plans to move up to a larger schools' league. Mr. Prendergast also discussed "branding" Da Vinci Athletics by using a new logo that he designed, and by adopting new uniforms with a single color scheme, as opposed to the colors of the individual schools.

Ms. Morgan thanked the athletic director and coaches for their work as teachers and as coaches. She has seen and heard the difference among the students. She asked how assistant coaches are hired. According to Dr. Jones, internal hiring desired, but the program looks outside, in Wiseburn and the community. He said that they plan to continue posting for more positions. Mr. Bañuelos appreciates the visibility of the program – especially cross-pollinating with Dana.

Dream See Do Presentation – Kim Merritt encountered Dream See Do at a Schools That Can conference three years ago – they were focused on adult users in the areas of mindset and how to engage industry, but didn't realize their product was also a great education platform. That platform has evolved over time, and now provides an interactive Project Based Learning (PBL) platform for collaboration. Natasha Morse said that the online tool allows students to collaborate and communicate with each other and with teachers/industry partners, and for those teachers and partners to develop projects, deliver content and surveys, and assess grades. Both Da Vinci Extension and Real World Learning are using Dream See Do. According to Ms. Merritt, the platform provides a single place for students to submit work such as reflection journals, and for teachers and industry partners to view and comment on that work. This platform can also be a resource for all Da Vinci teachers to see what projects are being done.

Erin Whalen discussed how RISE High will use the case management capability of Dream See Do's "malleable access" and also provide a resource bank that will allow students to tap into the platform for resources they can utilize like food banks, internships, RISE High contacts, etc. Diagnostic tools will help those RISE students who have trauma around testing. Mr. Whalen went on to say that RISE High is looking to create an authentic onboarding process that will assess the students using Dream See Do. Dream See Do will incorporate Google docs for the students to be able to get real, direct feedback from teachers. This will be especially important for students who cannot be physically present all the time. Compliance for independent studies is difficult thing – Dream See Do will use an auto-logging process to maintain work journals. Coaches currently take 10 hours a week to get students to turn in work journals, and students also take hours to log their work – Dream See Do will reduce this time.

Ms. Morse has been using the platform for Real World Learning internships this semester, tracking students who are interns as they reach education goals and write reflections, since she doesn't have them in class. She can have students fill out surveys and provide feedback on the platform. Students these days feel more comfortable revealing things online rather than in person. And this in turn provides a real opportunity for industry partners to respond to the students on Dream See Do. For example, Belkin managers were enthusiastic about the platform, and said they found out more about their interns and their interns' experiences by looking at the students' reflections. Ms. Morse said that the platform fosters more connections between the students and the industry partners. She spoke

about a student intern at Gensler who had a prompt on Dream See Do to find a mentor, and as a result, that student is now meeting weekly with a mentor at Gensler. Kate Parsons is looking at piloting the use of Dream See Do for the 9th grade students at Da Vinci Design for use with PBL. Dream See Do has been very open to customizing the product for Da Vinci's needs, and is the only platform Ms. Merritt and the others have found that does so with a high level of quality.

Board Approvals

Items # 1, 3, 6, 7, 8-14

Approved as follows:

First: Mora

Second: Meath

Motion carries: 5-0

Board Approvals Pulled

Items #2, 4, 5, 15

#2 – The El Camino College dual enrollment classes agreement was presented at the previous Board meeting. Historically, dual enrollment classes at Da Vinci have been delivered by Da Vinci faculty as adjunct professors (Antioch). Dr. Wunder is meeting with Dr. Dena Maloney, El Camino President, in May regarding this process. This agreement is the first step. Dr. Wunder says there is great interest and support from Dr. Maloney and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Jean Shankweiler.

Approved as follows:

First: Morgan

Second: Bañuelos

Motion Carries: 5-0

#4 – Graduation requirements – Los Angeles Unified School District, as the largest district in the state, established the high school graduation requirements ceiling. Wiseburn Unified School District raised that ceiling by adopting several different graduation pathways. Da Vinci adopted rigorous a-g standards early on, so if students graduate, they have taken the courses that meet UC and Cal State admission standards. The 13th year pathway provides students a pathway to an AA degree; if a student completes this before age 22, the student could potentially earn a bachelor's degree. Dr. Brann wanted this important approval, and Wiseburn Unified School District's approval of the higher standards, noted.

Approved as follows:

First: Brann

Second: Mora

Motion Carries: 5-0

#5 – DVIA 2017-18 calendar – there was a brief discussion of the school's two cohort system, and one week earlier start than the high schools for the 2017-18 school year.

Approved as follows:

First: Brann

Second: Morgan

Motion Carries: 5-0

#15 – Approve issuing 2017-18 employment contracts to staff with a level increase per established schedules. There is no cost of living adjustment, just step and column from one year to the next. If every teacher were to return, the increase would be \$300K. Mr. Villa and Mr. Cox are comfortable with this increase. Mr. Meath asked for WUSD’s increase, which Mr. Villa said he would discover.

Approved as follows:

First: Brann

Second: Meath

Motion Carries: 5-0

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

APPROVED