



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2015**

Chet Pipkin, President, via phone	Matthew Wunder, Chief Executive Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Don Brann, Vice President	Steve Wallis, School Director, Da Vinci Science
Cheryl Cook, Secretary	Kate Parsons, School Director, Da Vinci Design
Brian Meath, Treasurer	Nathan Barrymore, School Director, Da Vinci Communications
Israel Mora, Trustee	Tom Cox, Chief Financial Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Jennifer Morgan, Trustee	Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Director of Employee Support Services, Da Vinci Schools
	Carla Levenson, Director of External Relations, Da Vinci Schools
	Sharon Coulter, Director of Development, Da Vinci Schools
	Jaime Hernandez, IT Director, Da Vinci Schools
	Kim Merritt, Post Grade 12, Da Vinci Schools
	Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn Unified School District
	Chris Jones, Deputy Superintendent, Wiseburn Unified School District
	Jhezrel Valentine, Executive Assistant, Da Vinci Schools

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at **6:06 P.M. by Dr. Brann**

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 23, 2015 were approved:

First: **JENNIFER MORGAN;** Second: **CHERYL COOK;** Motion carries: **4-0**

Board Approvals

#1, #2, #3, #7, #8 & #9

First: **ISRAEL MORA;** Second: **CHERYL COOK;** Motion carries: **4-0**

Board Approvals Pulled

Approval item #4 has been removed from roster to be addressed at next Board meeting.

Approval item #5 was modified to remove the following caveat: *"If Career Pathways grant is not awarded, the May fee will be waived."*

First: **JENNIFER MORGAN;** Second: **DON BRANN;** Motion carries: **4-0**

Board Approvals Pulled

#5 & #6

First: **ISRAEL MORA;** Second: **JENNIFER MORGAN;** Motion carries: **4-0**

Board Approvals Added

Add #10 & #11: Motions to add and approve 2014-15 Second Interim Report

First: **BRIAN MEATH;** Second: **CHERYL COOK;** Motion carries: **6-0**

Mr. Pipkin phoned in at 6:30 P.M., after approvals were completed.

Mr. Meath arrived at 6:39 P.M., after approvals were completed.



From the Board

The Trustees collectively express how pleased they were with the robotics presentation. Additionally, **Ms. Cook** shared that there was a Joint Board meeting between WUSD and Da Vinci Schools. Adding, it was wonderful to watch both boards work so nicely & professionally together with mutual respect. There are good things in the future because of that relationship. It was a great time and meeting.

DV Science Robotics Presentation – Aaron Tostado

Led by **Mr. Tostado**, Team 4201, *The Vitruvian Bots* of Da Vinci Science High School, presented a sampling of their mastery of robotics and some of what they would be presenting at the upcoming Ventura Regional Competition.

MOU Discussion (follow up to 3/21/15) – Matt Wunder

Dr. Wunder shares that this is an opportunity to discuss general impressions, as well as Da Vinci board member ratification procedures, leasing agreement, signage, and naming of the 201 Douglas facility, which were some of the issues that did not get traction from the WUSD and Da Vinci Schools Joint Board meeting on March 21, 2015.

Open Item #1 – Ratifying Da Vinci Board Members – Matt Wunder

Open item regarding governance – if any Da Vinci board members choose to leave, those positions will be filled with three Wiseburn residents, two of whom would be sitting WUSD board members. The current position is that Wiseburn would like to be able to appoint who holds the posts, with the question arising, will those two members then be approved by Da Vinci's Board of Trustees or simply accepted and ratified by the Da Vinci Board?

Mr. Pipkin adds clarity by stating, Da Vinci Board appoints its own board members, but it would be incumbent upon the Da Vinci Board to appoint the two WUSD sitting members that the WUSD Board recommends to the Da Vinci Board. Further stating, if the Da Vinci Board did not elect whom the WUSD Board recommends, it would be in breach of the MOU. Concluding, this is a little different than WUSD board members appointing the new Da Vinci board member.

Dr. Brann interjects and suggests what **Mr. Pipkin** is outlining follows the model that has been used by WUSD in the past. Stating that an example of the same protocol is when WUSD's Board identified **Mr. Mora** and Ms. Andriacchi to represent Wiseburn on the Da Vinci Board, they were each appointed based on the recommendation. Concluding this past history suggests Da Vinci should continue with the same practice of accepting and ratifying the Wiseburn Trustees who are recommended by the WUSD Board.

Mr. Pipkin further clarifies that Da Vinci Board appoints its own members, but with the responsibility to appoint the recommendations offered by the WUSD Board and that those appointees who are also members of the WUSD Board.

Dr. Brann explains that he has some concern about some of the language included in the same section, which suggests that beyond the two board members from Wiseburn being ratified, as other Da Vinci board members leave the Board, other Wiseburn board members would become Da Vinci board



members as the current members leave and then the Wiseburn Board would have to approve those members. Dr. Brann states that for him, that's where it goes too far. Especially given all the progress made from the original five nonresident Da Vinci board members.

Mr. Pipkin, being a part of the sub-committee that produced the language, offers his perspective. Stating that there is a great appreciation for how affectively everyone involved worked as one collective team. Further, making special note how extraordinary the representative staff has been. It's been a positive, collaborative effort. Everyone recognizes what's being done, specifically, and also in a broad sense, is absolutely extraordinary. With our overly successful WUSD, in a very appropriate way has seen the unbelievably good work coming out of Da Vinci and wants to pursue Da Vinci being Wiseburn's high schools. There's awareness from both Wiseburn and Da Vinci that this is a big step being taken. With that, there is sensitivity on the part of the Da Vinci representatives that nothing takes place in the MOU that would make Da Vinci vulnerable and without a school home. Parallel to that, sensitivity from everyone that WUSD not get stuck with schools that are not performing well. In light of the \$52.7 million dollar grant that's coming in, at least partially due to Da Vinci, how do we barter on Da Vinci stake without creating an MOU that would leave Wiseburn with schools that are underperforming, in the event the quality of education at Da Vinci ever diminishes? With that said, there are a lot of complex issues being dealt with in a productive way by everyone involved. This concept of intertwining the Boards was a way of bringing a level of comfort to a lease that is at an extremely low cost, on a crown jewel of a building, over a long period of time. So the question being, how do you reconcile all of this as one? The sub-committee came up with this concept, recognizing the WUSD Board would always be beholden to the residents of the Wiseburn community and the election cycle, and the fact that the Da Vinci Board appoints itself. How do we ensure the quality of people ten, twenty, thirty years out, who oversee the direction of the Da Vinci schools? This is the thinking behind the innovative approach to ratifying new Da Vinci Schools board members.

Mr. Meath asks who made the suggestion to have the confirmation of the new Da Vinci board member by Wiseburn School Board.

Mr. Pipkin shares the suggestion came from him.

Ms. Morgan, also a sub-committee member, states it makes sense given the Wiseburn board member is elected, which allows the Wiseburn residency to feel secure knowing their voice is being represented in the process.

Dr. Brann suggests it goes too far, stating this now allows the WUSD elected Board to, over time, decide all incoming Da Vinci board members, which is contrary to the ideals behind a charter school.

Mr. Mora adds more clarity, explaining the Wiseburn Board will be *approving*, not *deciding* the name of the board member, which the WUSD Board ratifies. The name is decided upon and submitted by the Da Vinci Board. Further stating the community is uneasy, not understanding why Da Vinci has its own Board, agreeing this is a good balance for the Wiseburn community.



Mr. Meath explains that he loves the idea of having two Wiseburn board members and one community member on the Da Vinci Board, but is concerned that having the WUSD Board ratify Da Vinci board members beyond those three members will result in making Da Vinci unable to maintain its independence.

Dr. Brann adds there was a time when the Da Vinci Board had no Wiseburn Board or community members and did great work on behalf of the schools. He further states that, for him, Wiseburn Board ratifying Da Vinci board members takes away from Da Vinci's independence, and for that reason, he is opposed to the language giving WUSD Board authority to ratify, over time, all seven Da Vinci board members.

Mr. Mora adds he will bring the issue up with the Wiseburn board members at their upcoming meeting.

Open Item #2 – Lease versus License

Mr. Pipkin shares his preference would be to have a lease, stating they are currently considering a 40 year term for a lease agreement and the renewal language is being offered by the joint sub-committee.

Open Item #3 – High School Naming

Dr. Brann states there has been a lot of conversation regarding the naming issue. Mr. Nelson (Roger) made it clear, in one of the sub-committee meetings, WUSD's interest in naming it Wiseburn High School (singular) and that the Wiseburn community also agrees with that naming choice.

Mr. Mora clarifies that the options are Wiseburn High Schools vs. Wiseburn Campus. Mr. Mora shares that it is in the best interest of all involved to create a campaign geared toward the community. Further stating the concept of charter schools is somewhat unknown to the Wiseburn community and they need to understand more about what Da Vinci Charters offer. Once the community is better informed, the naming process can proceed.

Ms. Morgan suggests the name *high school* should be attached to Da Vinci and the name Wiseburn should be attached to a place or the building. With that said, a logo on the building with the name Wiseburn makes sense with Da Vinci being the name of the schools.

Ms. Cook adds that the building is more than a school and the name should reflect it.

Dr. Brann adds the Wiseburn Board advanced a bond in 2010. The purpose was to buy land and build a high school. At the time, Wiseburn had no authorization to run a high school; it was a K-8 district. The bond was advanced to create Da Vinci. The expectation was that WSD would not be able to unify. However, Tom (Johnstone) found a way to unify. This all has been done for the benefit of the residents and their families.

Ms. Cook asks why the building can't be named Wiseburn-Da Vinci High Schools.



Dr. Wunder adds that clarity is important. Wiseburn–Da Vinci does not speak to clarity. He also states it is not his opinion that Da Vinci belongs on the building as the name of the facility.

Mr. Meath adds that by perpetuating the name Wiseburn High School (singular), people will continue to be frustrated by thinking the school is something other than what they voted for and that is a real problem. He likes the idea of naming the building “Wiseburn Campus” while the schools remain as is, Da Vinci.

Mr. Pipkin adds, “Wiseburn High School” would be a confusing name. He would not be opposed to ‘Wiseburn High Schools’ on the outside of the building.

Dr. Wunder states that he thinks ‘Wiseburn High School’ does not represent what Da Vinci is. He thinks Wiseburn High School refers more to a traditional high school. He understands that this issue can derail a lot of the work that has gone on so far. He’s agreeable to the moniker “Wiseburn High Schools” (plural) so there is no mistake, as erroneously reported recently by The Daily Breeze, that the three high schools are merging and being taken over by Wiseburn High School. He states there’s lots of confusion being caused by the singular name. Further, he agrees with **Mr. Mora** that a campaign would need to be initiated with Wiseburn and Da Vinci working closely together on the messaging, being very clear with what is on each Website. Yet, it could still be confusing in terms of fundraising and explaining the name.

Mr. Mora reaffirms that he will bring the issue up in the next Wiseburn Board meeting, as he is a member of both Boards. **Mr. Mora** assures his fellow Da Vinci board members that he will relay Da Vinci’s passion on the matter and report back to the Da Vinci Board.

Mr. Meath voices his concern that Wiseburn High Schools implies a comprehensive high school is coming.

Dr. Wunder explains that the term “comprehensive” signifies a traditional model, when Da Vinci has very intentionally tried to respond to what kids need in the twenty first century, which are two very different visions. Further suggesting that although what Da Vinci offers is similar to that of a comprehensive school, how the offering gets enacted is different. In a comprehensive high school model, so many kids are left out. They are now trying to rebuild the comprehensive model to be responsive to the kids who would otherwise be left out. A Wiseburn High School (singular) moniker would be a call to the past, not what Da Vinci has worked so hard to accomplish on behalf of the kids. It’s not the name, but rather what the name represents.



Financial Update – Tom Cox

**DA VINCI SCHOOLS 2014-15
FIRST INTERIM SUMMARY –
UNRESTRICTED/RESTRICTED
MARCH 23, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

	CURRENT BOARD APPROVED BUDGET A.	ACTUALS TO DATE (1/31/15) B.	PROJECTED YEAR TOTALS C.	DIFFERENCE C-A
REVENUES				
LCFF				
Subtotal LCFF	10,611,353	5,880,838	10,611,353	
Total Federal Revenue	780,036	332,998	805,036	25,000
Total State Revenue	435,432	193,517	396,682	(38,750)
Total Local Revenue	1,219,549	544,775	1,194,549	(25,000)
Total Revenue	13,046,369	6,952,128	13,007,619	(38,750)
EXPENSES				
Certified Salaries				
1000 Subtotal	5,984,182	2,740,769	5,984,182	
Classified Salaries				
2000 Subtotal	1,672,045	896,880	1,672,045	
Employee Benefits				
3000 Subtotal	1,598,398	923,263	1,568,398	(30,000)
Total Personnel				
Expenses	9,254,624	4,560,912	9,224,624	
(30,000)				
Books and Supplies				
Subtotal	1,291,953	1,070,401	1,486,953	
195,000				
Services and Other				
Operating Expenses				
5000 Subtotal	2,076,718	1,202,449	2,018,981	
(57,737)				
Capital Outlay				
6000 Subtotal	-	-	-	
7000 Subtotal	318,341	658	318,341	
Total Non-Personnel				
Expenses	3,687,011	2,273,509	3,824,274	
137,263				
Total Expenses	12,941,635	6,834,421	13,048,898	
107,263				
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)				
	104,734	117,707	(41,279)	
(146,013)				
Total Beginning Balance	2,114,902			



Closed Session

Meeting entered into Closed Session at 7:30 P.M.

Adjournment

Meeting reconvened from Closed Session and was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

✚ **Mr. Mora** will report to Wiseburn Unified School District Board of Trustees, Da Vinci's sentiment with regard to naming and report back to Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees.

✚ **Dr. Brann** to sponsor one student at Da Vinci Science Summer Drawing Workshop 6-Week Drawing Course at \$225 per participant. Commencing June 15 – July 23, 2015.

✚ **Denotes action item**