



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2013**

Board Members Present:

Don Brann, Vice President
Cheryl Cook, Secretary
Israel Mora, Member
Art Lofton, Member

Guests Present:

Brian Meath, *phone conference

Paula Barksdale, DVIA Parent
Jennifer Morgan, DV Parent

Staff Present:

Matthew Wunder, Executive Director, Da Vinci Schools
Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn School District
Chris Jones, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, WSD
Tom Cox, Chief Financial Officer, Da Vinci Schools
Dave Wilson, Budget/Accounting Director, Wiseburn School District
Michelle Rainey, Assistant Principal, Da Vinci Innovation Academy
Steve Wallis, Principal, Da Vinci Science
Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Business Office Manager, Da Vinci Schools
Lianne Lau, Executive Assistant, Da Vinci Schools

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2 PM for closed session and then reopened to the public at 2:40 PM.

From the Board

Cheryl is excited about graduation and hearing about all the students getting in. Art shared that he is trying to window some time for the President of Northrop to come see Da Vinci Schools and Israel shared that he will also be starting to visit DV schools more often. Don shared that he is looking forward to June 6th with DV's first full graduating class.

From the Public

Paula Barksdale, parent of Core 4 student shared about DVIA's process with the leadership transition. Paula shared that parents were shocked with Nicole's announcement, but 99.99% of the anxiety was relieved when they found out that Michelle was going to be Nicole's successor. Parents shared that "we will be fine" because there is no question about Michelle's experience, her understanding of the schools vision, and her leadership style being "quiet strength". The only concern parents expressed is to make sure the Dean of Students or AP will have a complimentary skill set. Looking forward, Paula shared that we need to look at the role of each administrator, their combined role together, and how they can work together to fulfill the vision of DVIA.

Matt shared his appreciation to the board for their support throughout this transition period and time.

Yolanda shared how she has been looking at different health benefits costs and there is an opportunity for DV to save approximately \$100,000 by going outside of charter group and going with a plan that is based on the age of faculty members – the only negative is that DV would have to give up Kaiser. Yolanda shared that Kaiser increased their rates by 13%, while Blue Cross's increase was only 6-13%. This



decision needs to be made fairly quickly, so Yolanda will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday, May 15th with staff to gather their input on whether this move would make sense since the new plan would be effective July 1, 2013. Tom Cox shared that open enrollment is different for all organizations are different and CCSA dictated July 1st period to us.

Matt shared that he attached a draft of the top five or less CMO goals for the upcoming school year and areas of focus for the next school year. Matt will be working on these in the coming weeks.

Approval of Minutes

April 18th, 2013 minutes were approved.

First: Israel Mora; Second: Cheryl Cook; Motion carries.

Don asked for clarification on the increase for classified members in the April 18th board minutes. Matt shared that the 3% increase is for the 2013-2014 school year and will be effective on July 1st. Minutes will be amended for “certificated staff” instead of “teachers”. Israel motioned to approve the April 18th minutes with the correction of certificated staff instead of teachers; Cheryl seconds the motion.

Discussion Items

1. Approvals

- a. Israel had a question on item 26; Don pulled items 23, 25, 26 to be discussed and approved separately
- b. Item 23: Don wants to know what is meant by “co-teach” and the cost implications. Matt shared that Andrew Hall has worked with Jessica Jones to embed industry level skill sets throughout Design’s campus this past year. The approval item is for Andrew Hall to continue working with Jessica next year, but to also participate in professional development and teach seminar classes at Design. Matt also shared that Andrew currently teaches part time at Otis and we’re not sure of his availability. Art questioned if this was within Design’s budget and Matt shared that this would be in addition to and will be about \$9,000. Don is comfortable with deferring it after the board gathers more info after the health insurance deal because he would like more certainty. Matt suggested that we host another board meeting within the next week to deal with health issues benefits since this is potentially big item taken away from staff.
- a. Item 25: Matt shared that Charter Schools Management Corporation (CSMC) work with Miles Denniston was originally for support with changing our compensation structure and more recently helping with budgeting for this school year. Matt was looking at CSMC as a backup because DV wasn’t sure about Tom Cox’s availability.
 - i. Don is not sure how much value there is for item 25 and understands that our budget can’t be done, but wants to make sure don’t go over. He shared that the issue is much more than \$5,000 and questioned what CSMC could offer and why not just go with ExEd for their phase 2. Matt shared that that Miles Denniston won’t be “all or nothing” like ExEd. Additionally, CSMC also worked other organizations with charter petitions and knows all the details. Tom has committed to 30 hours a month and he shared within the first month he has worked about half. Tom shared that if he can generally receive a week or two advanced notice, he can schedule accordingly.



- ii. Matt shared our first option is always Tom Cox, if not available – DV just needs a safety net.
- b. Item 26: Dave shared that Prop 30 was set to increase sales tax and income tax for 7 years and DV is required to post the resolution on our website.

2. Real World Learning Presentation

- a. Melanie shared that there are about 100 kids in the program and she places them into companies based on matching. Melanie is constantly recruiting more businesses and driving around following up on students.
- b. Many students have learned what career they want to pursue based on this experience as well as some students receiving offers for full-time summer paid jobs or internships (12 companies this year including SpaceX and Northrop). In comparison to other schools, companies have shared that DV students are above others and exceptional to work with. Additionally, students really enjoy their Real World Learning Program and when threatened to be pulled out of program because they're grades are suffering, all students have turned them around.
- c. Melanie shared about how she is preparing for her latest project, Young Women's Career Conference. DV was able to get SpaceX as the key note speaker and Melanie shared that this has validated the direction the Real World Learning Program is headed.

3. Financial Matters

- a. Matt shared that there is an important issue that he needs to spend time discussing with the board at the next meeting. Matt will alert board members with a memo and will revisit the budgeting process regarding how much decision making authority can happen by the principal at each school site.
- b. Matt shared that Miles is here just for backup at this point, but he will speak with Dave Wilson and Tom Cox.
- c. Don shared that DV needs to think about a three year plan and long-term budgeting in order to give principals more clarity in how they can move forward with staffing.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.