



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2012**

**Board Members Present:**

\*Chet Pipkin, President  
Don Brann, Vice President  
Cheryl Cook, Secretary  
Gary Wayland, Treasurer  
Art Lofton, Member

\*via phone conference

**Staff/Guests Present:**

Matt Wunder, Executive Director, Da Vinci Schools  
Tom Johnstone, Wiseburn Superintendent  
Tom Cox, Wiseburn Chief Business Official  
Michelle Rainey, Assistant Principal DVIA  
Colleen O'Boyle, Principal Da Vinci Design  
Chris Jones, Wiseburn Director of Curriculum  
Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Director of Business Operations  
Israel Mora, Wiseburn School District Board Member  
Melanie Franko, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Wiseburn School District Board Room, 13500 Aviation Boulevard, Hawthorne, CA.

**Approval of Minutes**

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 minutes were approved.  
First: Art Lofton; Second: Gary Wayland; Motion carries.

**From the Board**

Cheryl commented from the perspective of a parent that she continues to be impressed with the wonderful team and phenomenal teachers at Da Vinci. There was a great deal of excitement among the students when they each received an iPad recently.

Don commented on the wonderful things going on, and that Da Vinci is being noticed across the country. Chet congratulated Matt and his supporting staff on a job well done, and stated that it is an honor to be associated with the school.

**Action Items**

See attached list of Board Approvals

**Discussion Items**

**1. Budget Update (Tom Cox, Matt Wunder)**

- Regarding the \$220,000 surplus from the 2011-2012 Summary:
  - The \$33,000 “loss” in the 501(c)3 account is a timing issue related to the receipt and disbursement of grant monies.
  - The \$221,000 surplus is one-time revenue. The question was posed of whether one-time money should be used to fund ongoing expenses e.g. the registrar position.
  - In approving items #2 and #3 on the list of Board Approvals, it was decided to use \$100,000 now to cover the expenses of the Registrar position and the potential additional negative impact of Prop 30, and earmark the difference for future use.



## **2. Compensation Committee (Don Brann, Matt Wunder)**

- Matt explained that there have been questions from staff members regarding the compensation points awarded to new hires coming from outside Da Vinci vs. current employees. To analyze and discuss the issue, he recommends that Don Brann head up a committee that would consist of representatives from each school. The committee would conclude its analysis by the end of November with a recommendation to the Board by the end of the year.
- There was further clarification that the committee would evaluate not only the process, but also the actual compensation matrix itself.
- As Don Brann pointed out, there is no perfect compensation plan. Matt reiterated that the staff has been extremely professional during all the discussions to date.

## **3. Facilities Update (Tom Johnstone, Tom Cox)**

- The district has entered into an Option Agreement with Continental Development Corp. on a 13.7 acre parcel, which Northrop will vacate in December or January.
- An Environment Impact Report is required before a purchase can take place.
- The goal is to have plans filed with the Division of the State Architect in the second half of 2013. No lawsuits are anticipated that would slow down the process.
- The location is ideal for Wiseburn residents.
- With the unification vote most likely in the summer of 2013, Israel conveyed the excitement on the part of the Wiseburn School District Board.
- Chet commented on how impressive both unification and the new school facility are, and expressed his gratitude to all those involved.

## **4. Financial Update (Tom Cox)**

- The financial schedules behind the front summary page are reports required at the state level for each of the high schools (with DVIA being part of both).
- The budget will be updated after the November elections; if Prop 30 fails, the result is unpredictable. It is speculated that high schools could suffer deeper cuts than on the elementary level.
- Monies have been set aside in anticipation of the failure of Prop 30, in the Reserve for Economic Uncertainties, which is predicated on a \$457 loss per student.

## **5. Da Vinci Innovation Academy Update (Michelle Rainey)**

- DVIA will be sending a mailing to families showing an approximate API score of 805, derived using the state API calculator. DVIA does not receive a separate score since it is part of both high schools.
- Math and English will be emphasized in classes at school as well as in the at-home work.
- Math teachers from Dana, DVIA, Science and Design will meet October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **6. Da Vinci Design High School Update (Colleen O'Boyle)**

- Naviance, an online database/resource, is being utilized in the college application process. Counselors have received in-depth training on its usage, and students and parents have access from home.



- An Academic Awards dinner will be held Wednesday night when, in addition to traditional honor awards, achievement awards will be given out as part of a special Scholars Program.
- Da Vinci Design students have applied to the Posse Foundation, the UCLA Engineering Program, Riordan Scholars program and Carnegie Mellon, among others.
- In addition to a college writing seminar, students have access to an SAT prep class at the low cost of \$299, as well as Method Test Prep via Naviance.
- When possible, college counselors will take advantage of expense-paid college fly-in programs. The only Da Vinci expenses incurred would be round-trip ground transportation and some meals.
- Some of the interesting courses at Design this year:
  - Work Experience (60 participants plus 30 in a hybrid class; working with Belkin, Mattel, Northrop Grumman, Best Buy, etc.)
  - American Sign Language, which is particularly beneficial to special needs students
  - Financial Literacy
  - Pre-Calculus and Calculus as well as Algebra 1 and 2 now available to 10<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Archery
  - Academic seminars
  - Project Lead the Way
  - Antioch courses: History 101 and 102
  - Advanced Physics class that is creating a Rover with JPL
  - Educreationship program with Karten Design
- The football team is playing Cross Roads today at 4:15 at Design.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.