



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2014**

Don Brann, Vice President	Matthew Wunder, Executive Director, Da Vinci Schools
Cheryl Cook, Secretary	Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, Wiseburn School District
Brian Meath, Treasurer	Chris Jones, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, WSD
Israel Mora, Trustee	Carla Levenson, Director of External Relations, Da Vinci Schools
Jennifer Morgan, Trustee	Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Business Manager, Da Vinci Schools
	Tom Cox, Da Vinci Schools
	Dave Wilson, Budget/Acct. Director, Wiseburn School District
	Miles Denniston, Charter School Management Corporation
	Kate Parsons, School Director, DVD
	Michelle Rainey, School Director, DVIA
	Nathan Barrymore, School Director, DVC
	Tyler Phipps, Dean of Students, DVIA
	Kim Merritt, English Teacher, DVC
	Sawyer Stein, Student, DVIA
	Debra Bronow, The Bronow Group
	Jhezrel Valentine, Executive Assistant, Da Vinci Schools

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by **Dr. Don Brann**

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from August 25, 2014 were approved:

First: **Israel Mora** Second: **Jennifer Morgan**; Motion carries: **4-0**

Board Approvals

1, 3-12, 16-18

First: **Israel Mora**; Second: **Cheryl Cook**; Motion carries: **4-0**

Board Approvals Pulled and Approved

2, 13, 14, 15

First: **Cheryl Cook**; Second: **Jennifer Morgan**; Motion carries: **4-0**

Note:

Mr. Meath arrived at 5:47 P.M., after the voting occurred.

From the Board

Board members spoke briefly about the start of school. Members with children enrolled at a Da Vinci School shared how meeting the teachers and getting an overview about what they may anticipate for the school year, was exciting and helpful.



Schools' Update

Da Vinci Design:

Ms. Parsons reports that Design had a really smooth opening and that everyone is excited about the new music and drama programs now being offered. Also, seniors had an interesting project, based on a book they read, "The Road," which led to them building their own shelters and sleeping on the football field overnight. Ms. Parsons shared that it was interesting to watch them go through the process of building a *post-apocalyptic* village and that they seemed to have enjoyed the experience. Design also had their first *in school* event – *Welcome Back Kick Back* – hosted by the senior committee for DVC and DVD. In October, Design will have their first "Hispanic Heritage Month," headed by Design's Spanish teacher, Claudia Najarro, and the Spanish club, and are planning an exhibition in mid-October.

Da Vinci Communications:

Mr. Barrymore reports that DVC has doubled in size with 135 ninth and tenth graders combined. Reporting that the ninth grade team is running smoothly. Project Based Learning is running another TEDx event in December and *72 and Sunny* is working with the tenth grade team for the upcoming project, and will help define what some of the essential communication skills are. Regarding computer-based instruction, Mr. Barrymore reports that the math curriculum is starting much faster this year, especially for ninth graders. English teachers have begun to utilize program, which gives students individualized feedback. Facilities space is running smoothly.

Da Vinci Innovation Academy:

Mrs. Rainey reports that their second *Parent/Educator Conference* is coming up and will be held at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. They are also gearing up to send Core 4 (5th and 6th grades) and Core 5 (7th and 8th grades) to camp. Reporting that 80% of students will be attending one of the two camps. Also, DVIA's full time Independent Study Program is blossoming this year, with 23 students who are being fully homeschooled. DVIA's teachers attended trainings on human rights related projects in August and are now focusing on the same, spanning from the *environment to how people are being treated and displaced around the world*. This year there is a new space on campus called, *The Innovation Station*, where weekly, on Monday and Tuesday students are able to take *Art*, while on Thursday and Friday the focus becomes *Maker Space & Tinkering Lab*. Also on Wednesday the space hosts the *Enrichment Program*. Lastly, Mrs. Rainey reports that they are implementing a full scale response to intervention, which they are calling "*Response to Intervention Program*" for their K-4 students, who are struggling to read and write, with a teacher offering some "push in/pull out" remediation services for them.

Da Vinci College Program Update:

Mrs. Merritt states that last year there was a lot of discussion around why we would want to add a college program. One of the key factors that was zeroed in on was the low graduation rates, stating that only 8% of low income students are graduating college, and of the students who go to four and two year colleges, about 33% are graduating overall.

- The Vision: To provide Da Vinci students with high-quality, low-cost Associate's degrees which lead to jobs that are lucrative and fulfilling.
- Goals
 - College degree completion



- Reduced time and cost
- Real world industry skills and opportunities
- Raise college completion rates for low-income students
- The Model: Da Vinci College program exists to support students in blending their passions, education, and career. Designed to streamline the college experience, the model links classwork to paid internships with Da Vinci partner organizations. Students will be immersed in a small and supportive environment emphasizing collaboration, mentorship, and 21st century skills. By reducing the time and cost of college, this program aims to empower under-served youth to become successful college graduates – and increase the probability of all students leading more fulfilling lives and becoming greater contributors to society.
- The Need: The current college system is not working for many students.
 - More than 40% of U.S. students who start at four-year colleges haven't earned a degree after six years
 - The average student will graduate college with \$29,400 dollars in debt.
 - Only 8.2% of U.S. low-income students graduate from college
 - By 2020, 68% of U.S. jobs will require postsecondary education
 - Three million U.S. skilled jobs in 2012 went unfilled because of a lack of qualified candidates
 - One out of every four K-12 students in America is living in poverty, hindering their access to 21st century skills and good paying jobs.
- Program Highlights
 - ✓ Paid Internships Linked to Coursework
 - ✓ Low or No Cost Tuition
 - ✓ Curriculum Designed with Industry Partners
 - ✓ Professors with Master's or Doctoral Degrees in Field
 - ✓ Strong Network of Professional Contacts
 - ✓ Blended Learning: Online, Experiential, On-Site, and MOOCs Classes
 - ✓ Real World Project-Based Learning
 - ✓ Earn Tuition Credits Through Internships
- Why We Do It: Students cultivate real skills for real jobs and a strong network of professional contacts, while industry partners gain access to a pipeline of talent and diversity for years to come.
- Outcomes:
 - ✓ Da Vinci pathway from K-12 to college to career
 - ✓ Increase 4-year college enrollment and completion rates
 - ✓ Prepare students with hybrid skill sets for 21st Century jobs
 - ✓ Increase the retention and graduation rates of underserved students in college
 - ✓ Da Vinci College Program alumni become Los Angeles' next generation of engineers, designers, thinkers, and business leaders.
 - ✓ Establish a new high school-college-career model for study and replication by other schools
- ❖ Program Design
 - Transferable General Education Courses + Internship Project Based Application



Special Presentation

DVIA Student Scholarship presented by Sawyer Stein, 7th Grader

Sawyer Stein shared that he had worked to raise money for this scholarship since late last year. Sawyer has been collecting recyclables in order to sponsor a student-in-need's annual Catalina Camp trip. Sawyer shared that the reason he wanted to raise money for another student is because he remembers how much it cost his grandmother last year to pay for his trip, and does not want a student to miss out on the experience and fun because of a lack of money. Sawyer collected over \$300 so that a student in need would be able to attend camp. Sawyer states that he does not know which family will receive the scholarship but, he does know that there is a family in need of it. Sawyer took an opportunity to thank his sponsors, who helped him collect cans and recyclables, specifically thanking, Ms. Odette Leonelli, his neighborhood pharmacist, of Kovacs Frey Pharmacy, who donated \$100 to his efforts. Sawyer also thanked his sister, Maya, who created the presentation check for him to present to the board.

Mrs. Rainey adds that Sawyer's scholarship donation will help two families who are unable to pay the entire fee for camp.

Dr. Brann commented on the great job that Sawyer did in making his presentation and applauded his initiative.

Campaign Update

Presently in the CAMPAIGN PLANNING PHASE (July-Sept 2014)

We have recruited an internal campaign cabinet which has met five times. Focus areas have included:

- ✓ Creating a Campaign Case Statement (both an internal and external document)—detailing the need for the Campaign and its transformative capacity
- ✓ Drafting campaign talking points for staff and leadership
- ✓ Drafting responses to potential questions which will be posed by prospective donors
- ✓ Creating a list of naming opportunities
- ✓ Creating a gift pyramid (list) of all prospective donors-individuals, foundations & corporations as well as vendors involved in the building of a new campus
- ✓ Identifying a short list of individuals to be recruited to an external Campaign Steering Committee. Gifts from these individuals will represent the first gifts to support the campaign. They will be lead gifts for the campaign to inspire others and set a high bar

Immediate Critical Next Step:

- ✓ Approach identified Steering Committee members (8-10) to secure lead gifts and to help identify and approach potential supporters

Financial Update

Mr. Denniston states that they are seeking approval of the Unaudited Actuals Report, what, they think, are fairly finalized numbers for all of 2013-14. The final piece of the 2013-14 puzzle will be the Audit, which will come out in the November/December timeframe. Further stating that we are showing a net loss of just over \$600K.



	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
DV Science			
Total Revenues	3,837,187.76	526,834.88	4,364,022.64
Total Expenditures	4,433,743.92	304,255.58	4,737,999.50
DVIA			
Total Revenues	1,682,454.94	20,040.00	1,702,494.94
Total Expenditures	1,553,664.54	194,427.73	1,748,092.27
DV Design			
Total Revenues	4,065,656.00	549,696.13	4,615,352.13
Total Expenditures	4,223,964.66	581,461.57	4,805,426.23

- ✚ Mr. Mora requests to see an outline of all of the items that had to be showed as income last year, or expenses that will hit us this coming year, penciled in, so that we can see the full effect.
- ✚ Mr. Mora also would like to look at some of the principals’ budgets so they won’t overspend this year based on what they may think they saved last year.

CMO Operational Goals – Trustees’ Feedback

Dr. Brann believes that the Operational Goals are ambitious and that if most of them can get accomplished, we’ll have a great 2014-15 school year.

- ✚ Approve CMO Operational goals at next Da Vinci Board of Trustees meeting.
- ✚ Trustees to look over Wiseburn/Da Vinci MOU, then schedule a joint Wiseburn/Da Vinci Board of Trustees meeting to look over and discuss MOU, together.

Closed Session

Meeting entered into Closed Session at **6:15 P.M.**

Adjournment

Meeting reconvened from Closed Session and was adjourned at **7:25 P.M.**

- ✚ Denotes action item