Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2010

Open Session  
Meeting called to order at 8:10 a.m.

Board Members Present:  
Don Brann, Vice President  
Cheryl Cook, Secretary  
Gary Wayland, Treasurer  

Staff Present:  
Matt Wunder, Executive Director  
Tom Cox, Wiseburn Chief Business Official  

Guest Presenters:  
Nicole Temple, Principal  
Erin Hughes, Assistant Principal  
Steve Wallis, Assistant Principal  
Colleen O’Boyle, Academic Dean  

Visitors Present:  
Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Stand-in Secretary  
Marshall Vallalunga, Da Vinci Parent  

August 16, 2010 minutes unanimously approved.

From the public  
Marshall Vallalunga- La County Science Fair has been approved to host the County Science Fair  
International-if you win you get a free entry to the International Science Fair ($100,000 grand prize)

Information from the Board  
- Cheryl Cook- everything appears to be going well at Da Vinci (students look sharp in school attire and excited to come to school)  
- Gary Wayland- Mira Costa and Redondo are holding college night in October. Colleen O’Boyle will follow up with Gary to see if Da Vinci can be invited? 75 schools attending.  
- Don Brann- First day of school was exciting and got off to amazing start with the morning rally. Commitment level on all parts is high.  
- Don B- Standards and standardized testing- What it means at Da Vinci Schools. Great job from Diane Levitt, Carla Levenson and Matt Wunder putting a document together on the subject. Need to incorporate talk points into document. API will come out on Monday.  
- Don B- Tom Johnstone announced at retiree breakfast that DV Science performed highly on the CSTs in the area of Language Arts - better than all other local schools. Don - We need to be able to explain how we did that?

Discussion Items

1. Financial Report and Unaudited Financials (Tom Cox and Gary Wayland)  
   - On target with financials- two documents will be provided to state (One for each school)  
   - Financial Report will be turned in on Sept 15th – Matt and Tom Cox will need to sign  
   - Final reporting will include the 501 3c activity (donations)
• Collected everything from grant monies, except $150,000 from one grant
• Monies in reserve- DV Design: $50,000 set aside for Spec Ed, $365,000 for Economic Uncertainties; DV Science: $50,000 for Spec Ed, $546,000 for Economic Uncertainties
• Being a new school last year we were not affected by the state cut backs - next year we will be included.
• Sources of income State Aid - ADA x students + property taxes= Wiseburn gives a % to charter
• Matt and Tom C will work on DV budget. Gary will assist after Sept 15th.
• Reserves over $1 million= $400,000 Design, $600,000 Science
• If and when the schools separate the reserves will be split. Reserves would need to be negotiated at that time.
• Unanimous vote to authorize the filing of Budget Actuals.

2. Bond Campaign Update (Matt)
• Last Friday Dennis Curtis and Dr. Johnstone met with DV staff about campaign
• Currently in the Endorsement stage- scrip and FAQs are ready for volunteers
• Tom J contacted Diane Levitt who will help with political endorsements
• Tom Cox- The topic of Unification vs Charter will come up frequently with prospective voters. Parents simply want a good school for their children and are not so concerned with the government of the school. It is important we keep discussion simple.
• 2/3 vote needed to pass.

3. Annual Giving (Matt)
• Carla – Goal $75,000. $40,000 brought in and still collecting.
• Would like to see 100% staff and board participation
• Thank you event for donors was discussed. Gary expressed the desire to meet and thank some of our contributors.

4. Enrollment (Matt)
• 683 currently enrolled. Enrollment summary was provided.
• Unexpectedly lost many of our returning 10th graders. Plan is in progress to avoid this loss in the future.
• It is customary to lose approximately 10%.
• We need to focus on locking in the students at end of every year. Important to maintain frequent contact with families throughout the summer.

5. Academic Dean- Academic Overview (Colleen O’Boyle)
Vision and plan- Who do we serve? Also important is- How do we serve?
• College counseling – Personalized counseling with not only applications but help from 9th grade on. Putting on four college nights to educate the parents on their options- Let parents know that colleges look for a holistic student, not just academic grades, etc.
• Internship program- Forming the holistic student. Internships begin junior year – during school day students will leave campus and go to a work place such a Belkin and Northrop Grumman. Concerns: transportation, use of tools, incidents/accidents that may occur, responsibilities lie where?
• **Intervention Program**- A program was rolled out last year. Catalyst to the problem- Is it behavior or academic concerns that are holding the student from learning?

• **Academic rigor**: We must have academic rigor to hold our students. Oct 5th is Principal/Academic Dean Night for parents and students. Graduation requirements and college requirements will be laid out.

• **Early College Courses**: Currently we have 1 speech class for design and 1 for science as well as PLTW classes that are year long. Students must take 2 college courses before graduating. 10th graders in science school are currently taking a college credit Art class.

6. **Da Vinci Overnighter** (Steve Wallis)
   - Steve expressed gratitude to the Board for allowing the overnighter to happen. Positive connections were made by staff and students.
   - out of 266 9th graders, 250 attended
   - $18,000 collected. 166 paid – Steve will follow up with the others.
   - $72 per student actual cost.
   - Approximate cost to Da Vinci is $7,000

7. **Rigor, Math and Academic Excellence Program** (Nicole Tempel)
   - Math rigor is a focus. We need more data to move forward.
   - Essential skills- DV teachers are identifying 10 skills from the 60 standards to be the focus.
   - Final assessment of essential skills is the digital portfolio presentations in December and end of year. Student present the - I can ……
   - PD on Monday is about DV’s vision and mission statement. College ready, career prepared and community minded
   - How do we measure success? What does great instruction look like? Teachers helped create the classroom walk-through form- Observational notes completed by Nicole, Erin and Steve and returned to teachers. To be used for teacher feedback, not for evaluative purposes.
   - TFA accounts for 1/3 of total staff. New to teaching are receiving support from TFA and other teachers (Collegial Teaching model)
   - Don - would like to have DV explain via the media how we did so well on the English/Language arts section on the CST’s. Reasons provided by Erin and Nicole are: Job-alike morning sessions among teachers, teachers heavy emphasis on writing. Need to develop key discussion points to focus on.

8. **Design Symposium**
   - Will take place Oct 14th and 15th
   - Day 1 visiting different companies that have a design component (two visits). Morning visit to a job site, lunch at park then on to 2nd location.
   - Day 2 Design brief: How to design a bag to make it easier to use on bikes. Students will work through the design process.
   - Supporters are : Getty, Gensler, Belkin, Otis, Northrop

9. **Sports and Arts Program**
   - Adidas will contribute $10,000 toward sports equipment
   - Considering all options - fall, winter and spring programs (4th category could include sports like fencing and lacrosse)
• Joining CIF is cost effective and helps in getting our program started. Next step: Attend the Coaches meeting.
• Athletics will most likely be user pay
• Concerns: Lack of Facilities, DV focus has never been on sports, some of our kids are already playing for other schools - they may be affected by our decision to join CIF. Work with Nicole and Steve on next steps.
• Arts program is in the works: offering step and vocal music - user pay

10. Da Vinci Flex Pilot Version 5.0 (Matt)
• No pilot this year.
• We are continuing to look at our options. It is a great opportunity for DV to serve students in a blended way- on campus and online.
• First priority is our current program.
• Flex may be able to help us get our k-8 program up.

11. Advisory Council (Nicole)
• Don would like to see residents and parents on council.
• What is the council’s role? Don will come to first meeting to give an overview

Closed session (11:15am-11:30am)

Action Items Unanimously Approved
- K12 Virtual Schools cost of $4,032.00
- Edu Serve Consultant Agreement for Power School support at $95/hr, not to exceed $1,500
- Helena Tselos Consultant Agreement for Calpads support at $30/hr, not to exceed $2,000

Upcoming Events
Next Board meeting will be in October 2010, schedule tba.

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Agenda Items for next meeting:
Rigor, Math and Academic Excellence Program