



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High)

Date and Time

Wednesday October 9, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Location

Galileo Room, 2nd Floor, 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County ("DVLAC") welcomes your participation at its Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of DVLAC in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our schools. To assist you in speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

1. Teleconferencing will be held at the below address(es). Members of the public attending a meeting conducted via teleconference need not give their name when entering the teleconference location. LOCATION: 606 S. Olive St., #300, Los Angeles, CA 90014.
 2. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.
 3. The Order of Business may be changed without notice. Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.
 4. Notice is hereby given that; consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only.
 5. "Request to Speak" forms are available to all audience members who wish to speak on any agenda items or under the general category of "Public Comments," which is time set aside for members of the audience to raise issues not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action on such comments. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Non-English speakers who use a translator shall have six (6) minutes in which to address the Board.
 6. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern. If you wish to be contacted, please indicate on the "Request to Speak" form.
 7. The chair will recognize such individuals who wish to speak on a specific agenda item at the appropriate time. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to adhere to the time limits set forth, and to not repeat remarks made by those who preceded them.
 8. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members shall be available for public
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inspection at 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245, during Business Office operating hours.

The agenda and documents in the agenda packet will be made available, if requested, in appropriate alternative formats to any person with a disability as required by the ADA, 42 USC section 12132, and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. To request a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, you must contact Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County (201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA) at 310-725-5800 at least 48 hours before a regular meeting, and at least 12 hours before a special meeting. (Government Code § 54954.2(a)(1).)

Trustees Present

A. Montes-Rodriguez, B. Freiberg, J. Morgan, L. Jennings, T. Johnstone

Trustees Absent

N. Whiteman, P. Escala

Guests Present

A. Wohlwerth, Bernard Bella, E. Whalen, K. Croft, Lauren Murray, M. Wunder, Meikah Nwaomah, V. Bravo

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Jennings called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday Oct 9, 2019 @ 6:02 PM at Galileo Room, 2nd Floor, 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245.

C. Approval of Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
L. Jennings seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Johnstone commented that it was great to be back in Los Angeles after traveling.

B. From the CEO

None

C. RISE High Update

Ms. Croft reviewed the California Dashboard Local Accountability Indicators, focusing on five:

Basic Services (LCFF priority #1) - RISE High met these goals:

- Recruit, develop and retain highly qualified teachers and administrators
- Access to curriculum-aligned instructional materials
- Safe, clean, functional facilities (1 poor rating at the Hawthorne site for inaccessible door handles has been remedied)

Implementation of State Academic Standards (LCFF priority #2) - RISE High has met these goals:

- Full Implementation of State academic standards and/or curriculum frameworks (ELA, ELD, Math, Science, History, except for partial implementation of Professional Learning in ELD)
- Other adopted standards (full implementation of World Language and Arts, initial implementation of CTE, and beginning development of Health & PE)
- Support for teachers and administrators - full implementation

Parent Engagement (LCFF priority #3) - Met goals for:

- Building relationships with families and stakeholders (100% of surveyed families would recommend RISE)
- Building partnerships for student outcomes
- Seeking input for decision-making

School Climate (LCFF priority #6) - Annual Student survey indicators - rates of Good, Very Good, or Excellent responses:

- 90% of respondents said RISE High has created a compassionate learning community
- 87% gave positive responses regarding their relationship with teachers overall
- 88% felt that RISE High has an environment of high integrity, respect, and trust
- 97% said they feel safe on campus

Access to a Broad Course of Study (LCFF priority #7):

- Provide access to all students - RISE High uses individualized grade trackers and 24/7 online curriculum
- Extent to which all students have access to a broad course of study
- Barriers to access to the broad course of study (most are external, e.g., foster/justice placements, homelessness, etc.); RISE works within the system to ensure student access.
- Actions to ensure/improve access (additional case managers and behavior interventionists were brought on to support students)

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez and Ms. Freiberg were impressed by the Parent Engagement results. Ms. Croft gave an update on RISE High.

September Data & Demographics

Enrollment 178 overall (80 at Hawthorne, 96 at APCH, an increase of 7 students from the previous month.

Current & Former Foster youth = 40 (22%)

Homeless = 14 (8%)

Probation = 15 (8.5%)

IEPs = 31 (17%)

EL = 19 (11%)

There are only 33 outstanding Free and Reduced Meal applications (a reduction from the previous month's 59 outstanding applications)

11 of the 33 are foster or homeless students

6 of the 33 are age 18+ who need help filling out the form

August ADA was 71.27% (the previous database given to Ms. Croft was discovered to be incomplete)

Of the students with chronic absenteeism, 2 are on maternity leave; 4 are AWOL; 2 have been detained (it is currently unclear if they will be detained long term, therefore they are still enrolled); 4 are being refused for mental health (additional supports are in place to reduce their anxiety while they work via independent study); 5 are age 19 or older (staff are working to resolve their attendance, as once they are disenrolled at this age, they cannot enroll anywhere) ; 1 has incomplete immunizations.

English teacher Ms. Lauren Murray presented data on STAR testing (for literacy) and MAP Growth testing. The latter is more subject-specific and Common Core-aligned. It offers math and reading. Average MAP Lexile score was 799L (6-7th grade reading level). 56% of students completed testing; 35.7% tested at or above grade level for reading. All teachers have incorporated literacy and reading comprehension in every subject.

Ms. Croft commented that some students were reluctant to take the tests due to past negative experiences, but that some students, on seeing their scores, expressed a desire to re-test, feeling confident that they could score higher.

Mr. Whalen presented a new protocol on substance possession and use on campus. The new protocol is highly supportive and responsive, involves multiple stakeholders, includes proactive approaches, and incorporates more educational and mental health aspects. A curriculum from USC is being used. Staff is committed to using restorative justice methods to reduce recidivism.

Ms. Morgan asked if the increase in drug use is because of the legalization of marijuana. Mr. Whalen responded that school resource officers agree that the legalization has changed the environment.

Ms. Croft spoke of Parent and Stakeholder Engagement, saying that RISE experienced over 200 touchpoints, including 30 STAC meetings (student/teacher/adult/counselor/case manager). Student-led Conferences are being held October 21-25.

Ms. Croft noted that Tom VanderArk wrote a Forbes magazine online article featuring RISE High as one of 11 notable alternative schools.

Dr. Jennings shared that she attended LACOE meeting focused on the results of a study on black youth in education in Los Angeles.

D. Financial Update

Mr. Mayotte presented the financial overview.

September financials are not closed by the back office (the payroll for the pay period between September 16 and 31 will close on October 10).

Enrollment: if RISE High enrollment is off by 20 students, LACOE requests a new budget. [Correction: 20% of enrollment]

New staff positions are being requested; Mr. Mayotte asserts that adding the positions will still leave DVLAC in the black, assuming modest ADA increases of 2 students/month.

Dr. Wunder commented that according to the XQ Institute attorney, up to an additional \$176K disbursement could be made to cover the new positions. The grant is for \$2MM per year for five years, but the full amount has never been requested, due to wanting to stay

within the Independent Study funding calculation requiring 80% of budget being used for direct instruction.

The attorney feels that as the request aligns with the RISE program that is delineated in the XQ grant agreement, and RISE High is a unique school that the non-classroom-based formula hasn't encountered, that the additional funds could be allowed.

Further discussion on the non-classroom-based test ensued.

CSMC will be submitting reports going forward, as they are the entity producing the reports.

RISE financials close before the Da Vinci financials close, creating an issue that Mr. Mayotte will be resolving by having CSMC stop transactions after RISE closes.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the September 11, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

Dr. Johnstone noted a typographical error in the minutes in Page 3, Paragraph 5, where Ms. Croft was inadvertently listed as "Mr. Croft." The minutes were corrected.

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the amended minutes from the Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 09-11-19.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Action Items

A. September 2019 Check Transactions Per Management

J. Morgan made a motion to accept the September 2019 check transactions.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approve Revised Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting Calendar

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the revised Board meeting calendar for 2019-20.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Approve and Adopt Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction Policy

L. Jennings made a motion to approve the Policy.

B. Freiberg seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approve Acknowledgement Regarding XQ Approved Entity Grant Agreement

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the Acknowledgment regarding the XQ-approved Entity Grant Agreement.

B. Freiberg seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Approve XQ Super School Grant Agreement with Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County

B. Freiberg made a motion to approve the XQ Grant Agreement with Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Approve Addition to Administrative Staffing Plan for 2019-20

Ms. Morgan asked for clarification.

Dr. Wunder commented that every Da Vinci administrator has historically been given a long runway to open their school. Ms. Croft has not had this opportunity when opening RISE High's two sites, and is now working on opening a third. Because this is an atypical (for Da Vinci) model, Ms. Croft suggested that the leadership model would evolve, and the position being considered here may change in the future; therefore it is being listed as a temporary position.

Ms. Croft added that as she develops the sites and program, the administrative, instructional and behavioral supports need to be considered with a long-term view, and involve conversations with stakeholders. She does not want the current high level of services provided to students to be diluted.

Ms. Freiberg expressed admiration for Ms. Croft and Mr. Whalen's thoughtfulness and thorough review of the situation.

Dr. Jennings commented that in her experience, delegation of tasks itself takes time, and that Ms. Croft should keep that in mind. Ms. Croft is aware that the addition of new staff at this level would at first require an investment of her time.

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the addition to the 2019-20 administrative staffing plan.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Approve Updated RISE High Budget for the 2019-20 School Year

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the updated budget.

B. Freiberg seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

B. Freiberg seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Wohlwerth