



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time

Wednesday April 22, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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 through Zoom. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/732617145>, Meeting ID: 732 617 145, or dial (669) 900-6833.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members online at <https://dvrise.davincischools.org>.
3. Audience members who wish may 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. 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.
4. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.
5. 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.
6. 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 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 (remote), J. Morgan (remote), L. Jennings (remote), P. Escala (remote), T. Johnstone (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Wohlwerth (remote), Brent Walmsley, Charles Snow, Christian Navarro, Da'Jon Harris, E. Whalen (remote), Isaiah Williams, K. Croft (remote), Lauren Murray, M. Denniston, M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Meikah Nwaomah, Naomi Lara, R. Robertson (remote), Rosalind Mickelson, S. Ayala, S. Warner, Shannon Doss, V. Bravo (remote), Yana Grammer Simone

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Jennings called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Wednesday Apr 22, 2020 @ 6:11 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

A. Montes-Rodriguez Aye

P. Escala Aye

J. Morgan Aye

T. Johnstone Aye

L. Jennings Aye

D. Public Comments

None

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Jennings complimented the RISE team on their nimbleness and hard work in dealing with the pandemic closure. She also spoke of the three prospects for the board positions, saying that she and Ms. Montes-Rodriguez will interview them, and will bring the board their thoughts.

Dr. Johnstone commented that he misses seeing everyone in person.

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez shared that she is looking forward to hearing updates from the RISE High team and thanked them for their work in supporting the students.

Mr. Escala shared that he is looking forward to hearing about the students, as well.

B. From the CEO

Dr. Wunder commented that several people on the RISE High team have worked hard on the material revision and thanked them.

C. From the Executive Director

Dr. Ring spoke of transitioning into the role of the Executive Director role.

Dr. Ring's focus will be on rapid response, strengthening and improving offerings to support students.

For the summer/Intersession, the work entails assessing student needs and reviewing formative assessments to gauge any loss of learning, and using outreach programs and parent/student workshops to focus on mental health.

Dr. Ring has been working with LACOE to keep abreast of changes from the CDC. Safety will be paramount. Resource review, determination & allocation planning, and a post-action report will be conducted.

Disease surveillance, cleaning/sanitizing processes will be addressed during the next few months.

Dr. Ring will also assist with the board selection process, the budget, and working with community partners to recruit students.

D. RISE High Update

Ms. Croft thanked Dr. Ring, and welcomed Yana Simone and Da'Jon Harris from New Earth to the meeting.

April Demographics: 6 disenrollments have occurred since the last report due to changes in student placements. The RISE High team has worked hard to allow student enrollments even after the move to full remote learning.

Ms. Croft spoke of having a couple of students reaching out to the RISE case managers to inform them of housing instability resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Other students have been reaching out for other kinds of assistance.

Between February and March, ADA declined from a high of 79.83% to 64.37% due to the transition to full virtual learning and the two weeks of Intersession. April ADA should be higher.

Ms. Croft shared a look at the Dream See Do platform. The staff holds daily office hours and has modified schedules in response to survey feedback from students and stakeholders.

Case managers and behavior interventionists support mental health by providing regular times for students to call in and communicate with them (Teen Summit).

Exhibition cross-content projects are still in progress, as staff and students work on ways to work on and present the projects virtually.

Staff has put together a video for students giving them step-by-step tutorials on using the various technology platforms for virtual learning. Stakeholders can also request Dream See Do accounts to keep them abreast of students' work.

All staff are tracking student check-ins and session attendance. Student concerns are logged weekly and addressed in site-specific meetings. As a result, staff have contacted half of the 12 no-contact students (out of 185) who had been incommunicado.

Staff have also been supporting seniors, keeping them informed of the number of credits needed. 33 students slated to graduate between June and December.

Holistic supports like the Teen Summit and Wellness Hour have been instituted, and mental health support continues. Some staff have been making house calls to distribute technology and supplies for students.

Dr. Jennings inquired about the students who have not been in touch and foster care youth. Ms. Croft shared that the students who are the most difficult to track down are the foster youth, who are being moved from placement to placement at this time.

Dr. Jennings also requested information on helping out with donations and Exhibition.

E. Presentation: New Earth Executive Director Yana Simone

Ms. Yana Simone, co-founder of New Earth, spoke of the organization's enthusiasm for the partnership with RISE High. She founded New Earth with her husband, Harry Grammer. The New Earth organization focuses on young people coming out of the justice system, as well as foster youth.

Da'Jon Harris, MSW, is the Site Director, and has been working with New Earth since 2016. He is a USC graduate, and shared that he grew up in the same environments as the population that New Earth serves and wanted to give back to the community.

Ms. Simone went on to give the history of New Earth. Founded in 2004, the organization began teaching the FLOW program, Fluent Love of Words, in detention camps in partnership with LACOE. By 2010 they had expanded to 10 camps and halls throughout L.A. County, serving up to 30K young people in the justice system per year. The staff saw a lot of recidivism, which made them survey the students to ask what they needed. Jobs and a high school diploma were frequent responses. In 2015, the New Earth Arts and Leadership Center was created in partnership with Youth Build, to offer job training, placement, high school diplomas (in partnership with a charter school) and wraparound services and enrichment programs. New Earth Arts and Leadership Center became the only wraparound center focused solely on youth coming from the justice system.

Mr. Harris shared that the Center is open from 8 to 5. The education program operates from 9 to 2. The Center offers trauma-informed case management, mental health and therapy (in conjunction with the Didi Hirsch Center), mentoring, meals, paid on-the-job training, job placement, field trips and nature retreats to support the New Earth youth population.

93% of the New Earth youth do not recidivate, 70% are placed into jobs, 30% are released from probation, 55% graduate from high school (this figure is likely higher), 30% go on to college.

New Earth's 2020-21 goals include increasing job placement by 10%, getting 70% of youth off probation, increasing their high school graduates, and increasing engagement.

Dr. Jennings inquired if one of New Earth's goals is to increase college placement. Ms. Simone responded that New Earth focuses on opportunity, saying that the goals are based on the individual: some of their young people need to work, some need to go to college, and some need to do both.

Dr. Johnstone would like to tour the New Earth site when the COVID-19 situation allows.

Ms. Morgan inquired on how someone becomes a New Earth member. Mr. Harris responded that the members must be within the age range that New Earth accepts and be

willing to meet the academic requirements of New Earth's academic partner. Those who have needs New Earth cannot meet are referred to other organizations.

Ms. Montes-Rodriguez inquired about the geographic area from which members come. Mr. Harris responded that young people are coming from many locations across the county. Ms. Montes-Rodriguez also wondered if New Earth working on diversion of youth from the justice system as L.A. County is moving to reduce incarceration. Ms. Simone responded that New Earth is a diversion site, and has a contract with the Youth Diversion & Development division of the LA. County Office of Diversion and Reentry.

F. Facilities Update

Dr. Wunder shared that the team has had conversations with the Wiseburn district, and RISE High will remain in its Hawthorne location until December.

G. Financial Update

Ms. Sabrina Ayala gave the update, introducing Miles Denniston and Scott Warner from CSMC. Mr. Warner will be working on the budget. Ms. Ayala is working on the transition from the prior CFO to working with CSMC.

Approximately \$1.5MM in Central Office costs were moved to respective school sites to provide transparency.

RISE payroll costs are paid through Da Vinci and resolved annually. These costs are now being reconciled monthly to give a clearer financial picture for both RISE and Da Vinci.

Mr. Warner has begun the FY21 budgeting process, inputting enrollment, ADA and personnel data that he will verify with the RISE High team.

Next steps include determining: desired reserves, FY21 funding rates to be used in the budget model, the central office fee, and first drafts of financials.

CSMC will be changing the format of future board meetings, therefore, the current presentation gave less detail than CSMC will present in the future (see slide for list of details)

A summary, balance sheet, and details will be provided in future. Mr. Scott Warner commented that the details may be accessed in Charter Vision if the board members wish.

The board members were very appreciative of the update.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the March 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 03-11-20.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
P. Escala	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye

B. Approve Minutes of the March 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County EMERGENCY SPECIAL Board Meeting on 03-14-20.

P. Escala seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
P. Escala	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye

C. Approve Minutes of the March 27, 2020 Special Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Special Board Meeting on 03-27-20.

P. Escala seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
P. Escala	Aye

IV. Action Items

A. Accept March 2020 Check Transactions Per Management

J. Morgan made a motion to accept the March 2020 check transactions.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
P. Escala	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye

B. Approve Updated Da Vinci Schools Student Use of Technology Policy, Students Acceptable Technology Use Agreement Form, and Code of Conduct for Virtual Learning Opportunities

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the.

P. Escala seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Aye
P. Escala	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye

C. Approve and Adopt Resolution Approving Submission of Request for Material Revision of the Da Vinci RISE High Countywide Charter Petition to the L.A. County Board of Education

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
P. Escala	Aye

D. Approve Updated Board Calendar for Remainder of 2019-2020 School Year

J. Morgan made a motion to approve.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Aye
P. Escala	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to adjourn.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye
P. Escala	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Wohlwerth