



## Da Vinci Schools

### Minutes

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

---

##### **Date and Time**

Tuesday December 8, 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/94675316068>, Meeting ID: 946 7531 6068, 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. For more information call the CEO's office at 310-725-5800.
-

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, ext. 1351 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), C. McCullough (remote), C. Taylor (remote), J. Morgan (remote), T. Johnstone (remote)

#### **Trustees Absent**

L. Jennings, P. Escala

#### **Trustees Left Early**

C. McCullough

#### **Guests Present**

A. Wohlwerth (remote), Cherokee Perez (remote), Chris Howell (remote), E. Funes (remote), E. Whalen (remote), J. Hawn (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Ring (remote), M. Wunder (remote), Meika Nwaomah (remote), Miles Denniston (remote), Naomi Lara (remote), R. Robertson (remote), S. Ayala (remote), S. Warner (remote), V. Bravo (remote)

---

### **I. Opening Items**

#### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

J. Morgan called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Tuesday Dec 8, 2020 @ 6:04 PM.

#### **B. Record Attendance and Guests**

#### **C. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. McCullough informed the board that she had to leave early, and suggested the agenda be rearranged to move the action items up.

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the agenda amended so that the Financial Update, Approval of Minutes, and Action Items would fall after Public Comments.

C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

T. Johnstone	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. Taylor	Aye

#### **D. Public Comments**

None

## II. Approval of Minutes

### A. Approve Minutes of the September 3, 2020 Special Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Special Board Meeting on 09-03-20.

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
J. Morgan	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye

### B. Approve Minutes from the October 21, 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 10-21-20.

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
L. Jennings	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye

### C. Approve Minutes of the November 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Special Board Meeting (RISE High) on 11-04-20.

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

L. Jennings	Absent
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. Taylor	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye

### D. Approve Minutes of the November 17, 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 11-17-20.

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye

#### **Roll Call**

L. Jennings	Absent
P. Escala	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye

### **III. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports**

#### **A. Financial Update**

First Interim Financials will be submitted to LACOE in a Form 62. Nothing has changed since the revised budget that was presented at the previous meeting.

Mr. Amato reviewed the October Balance Sheet. Bills on the balance sheet were paid in November. The deficit of \$45K is related to timing of accounts payable and receivables. Cash is healthy at \$644K in the bank; the small deficit in October will be alleviated in January with the XQ payment.

Mr. Amato had budgeted for more LCFF revenue than was realized, but the deficit resulting from the state cap is being alleviated by the use of XQ funds, as previously stated. The revised budget reflects increases in benefits, salaries, books and supplies. Use of Federal CARES Act funds are reflected in the non-capitalized student supplies (Chromebooks). This year reflects higher expenses than in previous years, due to the opening of the New Earth site, for which expenses RISE High did not receive the usual expected state funding.

Mr. Denniston commented that accrued additional funds in October helped to minimize the loss of the state funding.. Discussion on loss of state funds for the year ensued - RISE High will never be able to recoup those funds.

Dr. Wunder added that RISE High's situation would be highlighted at the CCSA Symposium with CDE staff on 12/9/2020. Dr. McCullough inquired about a federal remedy to the moratorium on growth. Dr. Wunder responded that he does not expect federal assistance as the moratorium was issued by the state of California, not the federal government. Mr. Denniston added that the state of California receives the federal stimulus funds, and the governor chooses how to distribute those funds. He also commented that due to strong tax revenue received by the state, the state may shorten the deferrals of funds to schools in the Spring.

Mr. Amato then briefly reviewed the Form 62 First Interim report that will be submitted to LACOE, and the LCFF Budget Overview for Parents. Ms. Montes-Rodriguez inquired about supplemental and concentration funds for high needs students and the amount budgeted for those expenses. She feels that RISE High should carefully track these expenses, because of RISE demographics, and she would like a separate discussion to discover the expenses for high needs, English Learners, and other targeted populations. State Senator Holly Mitchell will be the supervisor for District 2, in which RISE High resides, and Ms. Montes-Rodriguez suggested talking with her. Dr. Ring pointed out that with Mr. Amato's help, the expenses have been distilled at a much more granular level than in the past. Further discussion on these expenditures ensued. Ms. Morgan expressed her gratitude for Ms. Montes-Rodriguez' expertise.

### **IV. Action Items**

#### **A. Accept November 2020 Payment Transactions Per Management**

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve.

C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

J. Morgan	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
P. Escala	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
C. Taylor	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye

**B. Approve First Interim Financial Report for Da Vinci RISE High**

J. Morgan made a motion to approve the First Interim Financial Report.

C. Taylor seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

L. Jennings	Absent
J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
P. Escala	Absent
C. Taylor	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye

**C. Approve LCFF Budget Overview for Parents**

C. McCullough made a motion to approve the LCFF.

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

T. Johnstone	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye
J. Morgan	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
C. Taylor	Aye
P. Escala	Absent

**V. Information: Board Comments And/Or Administrative Reports**

**A. From the Board**

None

**B. From the CEO**

None

**C. From the Executive Director**

Dr. Ring wished everyone a happy holiday season.

She thanked English teacher Brent Walmsley for his assistance in connecting with the H.G. Clay Foundation and winning a \$20,000 grant for a pilot program to help RISE students see the connection between their current school efforts and their futures through real world experiences. About 20 students will receive this boost during the first year pilot program.

Dr. Ring also shared the latest reopening plan update. RISE had suspended appointment-based, one-on-one on-site services for 10 days after the Thanksgiving break. Services resumed on December 7, and will continue through December 17, 2020. The current schedule is being maintained until further public

health guidance. Dr. Ring commended the staff for their work in keeping students and staff safe.

#### **D. RISE High Update**

Mr. Whalen thanked the board for its leadership and support during this very trying year.

November Data: Enrollment has increased by about 6 students to 229, 45.5% of whom are opportunity youth; 79 Free and Reduced Lunch forms were submitted between APCH and New Earth sites.

Attendance and engagement project update:

The staff is holding weekly attendance committee meetings to brainstorm challenges and incentives, and restructuring the attendance tracking and accountability systems. The team is also focusing on stakeholder outreach and holding weekly collaborative sessions.

New Earth update:

50 of 56 students receive services or are enrolled in New Earth programming.

New Earth also collaborates with the APCH and Hawthorne sites to provide resources such as baby supplies, employment opportunities, and grocery pickup/delivery across the RISE sites.

APCH update:

36 RISE students have received services or participated in APCH programming this semester.

#### **E. Presentation: Student Services**

Ms. Cherokee Perez Rogers, Coordinator of Services and Partnerships, gave a Student Services update. She shared the development of the Student Services team at RISE High over the years as well as the current structure of the team. The team provides College & Career Support (counselors); Behavioral Support (behaviorists/advisors), and Mental Health Support (case managers) across the sites.

Ms. Perez Rogers then shared student services data that the team tracks, and the partnerships with other organizations like XQ, School on Wheels, TAP (Metro), Assistance League, Big Sunday, Children's Bureau, Families for Children, Children's Hospital, World of Work, Ballotbox, California Youth Connections. C. McCullough left early.

Mr. Whalen shared the future of co-location partners.

He noted the presence of a RISE liaison at APCH, credit-bearing APCH courses, RISE-based engagement goals, and increased resource allocation

All New Earth RISE students have a case manager, and Mr. Whalen is working with New Earth site leader Mr. Da'John Harris to conduct parent workshops.

The first-ever Winter RISE graduation will be held December 18, from 1-3 p.m. It will be a drive-through graduation. Nine students are eligible (several others are very close).

Brief discussion on APCH's closure and remote work.

Mr. Taylor commented that the reports are all inspiring. Dr. Johnstone commented that it is evident why it is more costly to provide services for these students. The board thanked the staff for their efforts.

#### **F. Facilities Update**

Mr. Bravo shared that he and the team will be touring a potential new site for New Earth. The site location will make a difference in the permit. Dr. Ring shared that the LACOE partners have reviewed RISE High facilities and required a new fire marshal inspection, which has galvanized the effort to find a new site. New Earth's lease at their current site is expiring in the summer, and RISE High had planned to co-lease with New Earth in a new location.

Mr. Bravo also commented that his team is working with the other sites to ensure that the same safety and equipment are deployed for all RISE High students.

Athletics will not be starting until after January 1 at the earliest, following CIF and public health guidance. The state suggested that Boys' Volleyball be moved back to being a Spring sport, to avoid missing two seasons in a row. Mr. Bravo responded to a query that there were five or six RISE High students who participated in sports.

## **VI. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

T. Johnstone made a motion to adjourn.

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
A. Wohlwerth