



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time

Thursday September 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Trustees Present

A. Montes-Rodriguez (remote), C. McCullough (remote), J. Morgan (remote), L. Jennings (remote), T. Johnstone (remote)

Trustees Absent

C. Taylor

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

C. McCullough

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned

C. McCullough

Guests Present

E. Salango (remote), E. Whalen (remote), Kevin Hunley (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Denniston (remote), M. Wunder (remote), N. Lara (remote)

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 Thursday Sep 1, 2022 at 5:02 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests**C. Approval of Agenda**

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the agenda.
J. Morgan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. McCullough arrived at 5:04 PM.

D. Public Comments

None.

II. Special Board Action

A. Special Board Action: Approve and Adopt Board Resolution Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Period of September 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022

J. Morgan made a motion to Approve and Adopt Board Resolution Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Period of September 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Ratify Extension of Board Terms for Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Member Aurea Montes-Rodriguez and Tom Johnstone

T. Johnstone made a motion to Ratify Extension of Board Terms for Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Member Aurea Montes-Rodriguez.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

J. Morgan made a motion to Ratify Extension of Board Terms for Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Member Tom Johnstone.

C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
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Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Abstain
C. McCullough	Aye
C. Taylor	Absent
L. Jennings	Aye
A. Montes-Rodriguez	Aye

III. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Jennings shared her experience at Dr. McCullough's brunch event and thanked her for featuring RISE.

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

Dr. Wunder thanked the Trustees for their support and commended the RISE staff for their hard work.

C. From the Executive Director

Mr. Whalen shared advocacy and fundraising updates. He is currently working with Supervisor Mitchell's team to plan a future visit. Through Principal Lara's advocacy, Author Chris Emdin joined RISE PD and spoke to staff. He shared that he would love to continue engaging as the team reads his novel, "STEM, Steam, Make Dream." Mr. Whalen, Dr. Wunder, and Ms. Val Green from the advancement team met with Faith Lee, Program Assistant at Parsons, to review the RISE application. Staff are waiting on the status of the application following Parsons' board meeting in September. Estimated funding is \$100-\$200k.

Mr. Whalen joined the advancement team to meet with Valerie Briamah, Senior Associate Partner at New Schools Venture Fund, to discuss potential funding options. Ms. Briamah shared that RISE would be a strong fit for the Implementation Grant launching in January 2023. She is very passionate about adding RISE to their catalog and is interested in supporting the RISE and El Camino partnership.

Mr. Whalen and Mrs. Naomi Lara represented RISE at Board Member Dr. McCullough's fundraiser for her upcoming film College Reunion. Mr. Whalen was honored with an Appreciation Award.

Mr. Whalen provided staffing updates at each RISE site. Richstone and APCH are fully staffed. Staff are actively recruiting a STEM teacher for the New Earth location. A SPED teacher is onboarding for a year contract, and the newly hired Humanities teacher is starting tomorrow. Across sites, RISE is seeking an academic counselor and additional SPED teacher. There will be an upcoming hiring symposium for open positions.

Mr. Whalen shared information regarding future partnership with El Camino College, which includes dual enrollment, expanded opportunity dual enrollment, guided pathways, access to transfer center, certificate programs, wraparound services, facilities, scholarships, field trips/events, tutors, college prep/financial aid, and other services. Updates will be provided in future Board meetings.

D. RISE High Update

Mrs. Lara reviewed the RISE 2022-23 Priorities: Advisory Communities, Project-Based Learning, and Holistic Wellness.

Partnership updates

A Place Called Home - APCH and RISE are increasing collaboration in aligning afterschool programming offerings with XQ Student Performance Framework competencies to create additional credit-bearing opportunities. APCH and RISE team members are also working to increase access and opportunities for RISE students across all campuses to more easily access afterschool programming. APCH supported RISE students with transportation to DV Schools sports tryouts.

Richstone - Indivisible Arts Programming with Rafael McMaster is continuing through Elevate Youth Grant with an increased focus on Social-Emotional Learning with a one-hour session of teaching Wisdom Tools and a one-hour session of creative Art Exploration activities. Rafael collaborates directly with teachers on curriculum alignment with XQ Student Performance Framework competencies. Richstone hosted career professional and executive coach Jen Mattiola as a guest speaker who led a session on goal setting and overcoming barriers to achieving goals with students.

New Earth - Additional programming opportunities have been incorporated into the school schedule this year, including Knowledge of Self with Life Coach Quintin on Wednesdays. Water Keepers with Michael Quill on Fridays. Give-A-Beat: Healing & Opportunity Through Music (Thursdays coming in Sept). Four MSW interns are currently being onboarded to support students

Mrs. Lara shared updates from the first weeks of school.

Dr. Jennings inquired about enrollment. Mrs. Lara shared that data and enrollment information will be shared at the next Board meeting.

E. Financial Update

Mr. Amato reviewed the fiscal year 21-22 unaudited actuals ending June 30, 2022. He displayed an executive summary summarizing the main categories of revenues and expenses, which compared year-end unaudited actuals to the second interim. Mr. Amato provided a detailed line-by-line explanation for variances in total revenue and total expenses. The variance in revenue is -\$80,105, and \$79,867 in expenses. The total net income variance is \$238. Results have been submitted to LACOE.

Mr. Amato then reviewed the Material Revision revised 3-year budget. As a result of New Earth moving to a new location, a Material Revision must be submitted. Part of the submission requires a 3-year budget. Under LACOE's guidance, enrollment projections must remain at 50 since the new location does not have LACOE's requirement of E-occupancy. Mr. Amato displayed the new budget, which includes new information such as the Governor's budget and grants received. The changes in enrollment impact revenue. Shifts in federal funds, grants, and expense decreases will support reductions.

Dr. Wunder asked what ADA percentage is assumed in the budget. Mr. Amato shared that ADA projections are 76% year 1 and 80% for years 2 and 3.

Dr. Johnstone asked when the facility issue with New Earth will resolve itself with LACOE, and the budget outlook is more aligned to the budget approved in June. Mr. Amato deferred to Mr. Whalen regarding the submission timeline and the

material revision process. Mr. Whalen shared that the E-occupancy is currently being reviewed with staff due to the considerable expense. The process of E-occupancy can be costly, upwards of \$50k-\$1mil, and can take up to 12-18 months.

Mrs. Montes-Rodriguez asked about increased enrollment numbers are the other sites to offset the limited enrollment at New Earth. Mr. Amato shared that RISE is always seeking to increase enrollment. Mr. Whalen noted that APCH is almost at capacity but not limited to space. Richstone has limitations to increasing enrollment due to a lack of facilities. He also noted that there is a potential partnership with El Camino College, which could potentially support the budget. Mr. Whalen shared information about the E-occupancy process and timelines. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Amato noted that the revised LCAP is up for approval. The revision includes all Federal Title I funds, and the previously approved LCAP only accounted for a portion. The EPA resolution is also up for approval, in which spending will be on instruction-related expenses.

F. Facilities Update

None.

C. McCullough left at 5:28 PM.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the July 27, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 07-27-22.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

V. Action Items

A. Accept July 2022 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

J. Morgan made a motion to Accept July 2022 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B.

Approve the Pursuit of Federal Title I, II, and IV funding for 2022-23 via the Consolidated Application

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve the Pursuit of Federal Title I, II, and IV funding for 2022-23 via the Consolidated Application.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve 2022-23 Education Protection Account (EPA) Estimated Expenditure

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to Approve 2022-23 Education Protection Account (EPA) Estimated Expenditure.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Approve RISE 2022-23 Revised LCAP

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve RISE 2022-23 Revised LCAP.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

E. Approve 2021-22 Unaudited Actuals

L. Jennings made a motion to Approve 2021-22 Unaudited Actuals.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

F.

Approve Facilities Agreement Between RISE High and Richstone Family Center (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

J. Morgan made a motion to Approve Facilities Agreement Between RISE High and Richstone Family Center (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

G. Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between RISE High and A Place Called Home (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between RISE High and A Place Called Home (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

H. Approve Settlement Agreement for Special Education Services

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve Settlement Agreement for Special Education Services.

A. Montes-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel - Real Estate Negotiations/Lease Agreements

Closed Session was entered at 6:19pm.

C. McCullough arrived at 6:33 PM.

B. Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation (Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)): 1 matter

C.

Reconvene for Public Session and Closed Session Reporting

Public Session was reconvened at 7:23pm. Dr. Jennings reported that no action had been taken in Closed Session.

D. 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

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to 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.

C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

A. Montes-Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn meeting.

J. Morgan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Morgan	Aye
T. Johnstone	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
C. Taylor	Absent
L. Jennings	Aye
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 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Salango