



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

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

Date and Time

Wednesday September 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Trustees Present

C. McCullough (remote), C. Taylor (remote), L. Jennings (remote), T. Johnstone (remote)

Trustees Absent

A. Montes-Rodriguez, J. Morgan

Guests Present

Anna Marie Defelice (remote), E. Funes (remote), E. Salango (remote), E. Whalen (remote), J. Hawn (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Denniston (remote), N. Lara (remote), V. Bravo (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 Wednesday Sep 21, 2022 at 6:01 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll Call

C. Taylor	Aye
L. Jennings	Aye

Roll Call

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

D. Public Comments

None.

II. Information: Board Comments and/or Administrative Reports

A. From the Board

Dr. Jennings shared her appreciation for the communications since the last Board meeting.

Dr. Johnstone shared his appreciation for the red line of the Material Revision to review changes and thanked Mr. Amato for sending out the financials.

B. From the Executive Director

Mr. Whalen provided updates on advocacy and advancement support. Supervisor Mitchell will be visiting Richstone. El Camino College President and Superintendent Brenda Thames shared her enthusiastic support for the potential opening of a new RISE campus at El Camino College in the 2023-24 school year. Staff have visited and toured the new site, which is centered on the campus. El Camino College would be one of the larger RISE locations. The partnership could include expanded opportunity dual enrollment, guided pathways, certificate programs and creative expressions, and access to the El Camino School facilities.

Mr. Whalen shared fundraising news. The Ballmer Group agreement for \$750,000 has been signed. He thanked the Da Vinci Advancement team for their support in making it possible. The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation is granting RISE \$200,000 for over two years. Senior Program Officer Piper Kamins worked closely with Ms. Val Green and Dr. Wunder, reviewing the application and understanding the RISE model. Cotton-On Group President and General Manager Mark Pan will visit RISE Richstone in the coming week to learn more about the school.

Mr. Whalen provided staffing updates across all RISE sites. New Earth welcomed Humanities teacher, Dr. Stephanie-Ed Specialist, Mr. Frank Marolda, and STEM teacher Larry Simonson. Richstone welcomed Academic Coach Allan Ho. RISE is still seeking an Academic Counselor and Ed Specialist that will work across all three sites.

Mr. Whalen shared facility updates at Richstone. RISE is currently awaiting signatures from LA Fire Department and Hawthorne Building Safety. Richstone has shared intentions to expand its building to increase capacity. RISE at New Earth is moving to a new location. Move-in week is October 3-7. RISE staff will focus on structures, routines, designated areas, move-in, and virtual student support. Mr. Elinar Gutierrez from LACOE toured the new site and detailed areas of improvement. Until LACOE Board approval, students will be supported virtually and in person at the SkyBox at Da Vinci Schools.

C. RISE High Update

RISE 2022-23 Priorities: Advisory Communities, Project Based Learning, Holistic Wellness.

August Data and Demographics Update

RISE serves 197 students, 47% of whom are opportunity youth. ADA from 8/8 - 9/2 was 52.02% at Richstone, 50.72% at APCH, and 51.309% at New Earth. School-wide ADA is 51.09%. Ms. Lara shared a breakdown of the number of current and foster youth, homeless, current and former probationary youth, students with IEPs, and EL status.

Partnership Updates

APCH - RISE and APCH will begin holding weekly case conference meetings to identify areas of student need to connect with internal and external supports. APCH staff attendees will include APCH IMPACT program leaders, APCH Director of Counseling, APCH security, and more. This will increase collaboration and access to supports and services for our RISE students. APCH has reserved 15 spots for RISE students for their Family-to-Family program which matches students with donors to receive gift cards and gifts for the holidays.

Richstone – Richstone Indivisible Arts Program new student testimonial: “Here we do art to express our inner minds and show everyone what we can do. We use the language of the soul and wisdom tools to create art. The tool of intentions has helped me the most by helping me envision what I want to do in my life and work towards it. I do a lot of fashion and create clothes and patches every Wednesday, and I never did that before.” Richstone supporters and entrepreneurs Lisa & Paul Ng from Doing Good Digital organized a diverse career panel that will be held this week with folks from YouTube, Netflix, and the Healthcare field.

New Earth - New Earth vocational programming provides office hours three days per week to focus on career readiness, job training, resume building, and interview preparation for all students. New Earth program brought guest speaker Rafael Quiroz, founder of The Made New Foundation after he was released from prison and given a second opportunity in life. He shared his story, his journey, and the self-reflection and self-work he engaged in to obtain four degrees and dedicate his life to giving back to his community. He shared job opportunities with students as well.

Mrs. Lara shared photographs of daily activities and student experiences at each school site.

Dr. McCullough thanked the staff for the amazing work they are doing.

D. Financial Update

Mr. Amato reviewed the August balance sheet. Cash is healthy at \$749,386 with a high accounts receivable balance of \$760,681. \$100,000 has been collected, \$400,000 will come in the upcoming weeks from the XQ grant, and the remaining \$250,000 is from State and Federal related to SpEd programs. \$80,040 in accounts payable reflects partnership fees paid at the end of the quarter. \$217,119 in deferred revenue from Federal programs, ESSER III, and grants are also reflected in cash and will be applied to revenue on the P&L over the following months. Total current liabilities are \$325,514. Other liabilities due to Da Vinci are \$567,797, which reflects an accumulation of a few months' balance. Restricted net assets of \$17,840 reflect the HG Clay grant received a few years ago, which will be spent this year. Unrestricted net assets are \$900,980 as of the end of last year. \$278,572 of P&L reflects the first two months of the current school year. Total liabilities and net assets are \$1,533,559.

Mr. Amato reviewed the P&L, which reflects two months of activity through the end of August. LCFF revenue is \$170,596. The State pays revenue based on last year's ADA and waits until Learning Period 1 through the end of December. At that time, amounts will be adjusted to reflect the current year ADA. Projections will be made in the upcoming months based on trends to adjust the budget. Everything else is generally on track for the budget. For revenue, there are positive variances in personnel; \$46,983 in certificated salaries, \$12,708 in classified salaries, and \$20,807 in employee benefits. Total personnel expenses are currently \$80,499 under budget. This is due to hiring gaps as the staff is still seeking to hire. The positive variance accounts for paying staff ten months of the year instead of twelve. Other expense categories, books and supplies, and operating expenses have no variances. Everything is still on plan related to those expenses. The \$278,572 bottom line deficit is temporary due to the cash flow timing. Everything through the two months thus far has been okay. Further adjustments will be made in the upcoming months.

E. Facilities Update

Mr. Bravo shared that New Earth is moving to the new Washington location. He commented that LACOE's feedback from the walk-through is good news.

Hawthorne Police Department completed a walk-through of the Richstone site. The attending Officer provided insight that will be shared with Richstone staff regarding critical incident training, evacuations, and planning for the Safe Schools Plan. Staff is also seeking input from the local fire department, and recommendations will be incorporated into the shelter place training. Mr. Bravo and Lead Safety Officer Glen Noya will also work with local police and fire departments for APCH and the New Earth Washington location.

Wifi network at Richstone recently upgraded to Fiber to support connectivity. Staff will work with Richstone IT support to determine if the new network will support school needs. If connectivity issues persist, staff will work to set up our network for Wifi stability.

Mr. Bravo reiterated that RISE is in the finishing stages of the Certificate of Occupancy process with Richstone. He shared his excitement regarding the possibility of expansion at Richstone and El Camino College.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the September 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 09-01-22.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

IV. Action Items

A.

Accept August 2022 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

C. McCullough made a motion to Accept August 2022 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between RISE High and New Earth (August 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

C. Taylor made a motion to Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between RISE High and New Earth (August 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

C. McCullough seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Ratify Agreement between HopSkipDrive and Da Vinci RISE High

C. Taylor made a motion to Ratify Agreement between HopSkipDrive and Da Vinci RISE High.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor asked about the efforts to decrease travel expenses. Mr. Whalen shared that procedures are in place to limit the amount of spending.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Ratify Agreement between Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative (SEWI) and Da Vinci RISE High

L. Jennings made a motion to Ratify Agreement between Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative (SEWI) and Da Vinci RISE High.

T. Johnstone seconded the motion.

Mr. Whalen shared that Dr. Wunder's wife is the president of the Board. There is no conflict of interest or exchange of money for services.

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

Roll Call

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

E. Approve Report of Alternative Authorization of Teacher Assignments

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve Report of Alternative Authorization of Teacher Assignments.

C. Taylor seconded the motion.

Dr. Johnstone asked about the process. Dr. Hawn thanked the RISE team for their efforts in hiring the right staff. She shared the process for alternative settings includes reviewing transcripts and Ed code for what is permissible.

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

Roll Call

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

F. 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 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.

L. Jennings seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

V. Closed Session

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

Closed Session was entered at 6:55pm.

B. Reconvene for Public Session and Closed Session Reporting

Public Session was reconvened at 7:18pm. Dr. Jennings reported that no action had been taken at Closed Session.

VI. Closing Items

A.

Adjourn Meeting

C. McCullough made a motion to Adjourn Meeting.

C. Taylor seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

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,
E. Salango