

1. Call to order @6:08PM

2. Roll Call

Present	Chair	Board Members
X	G	Melanie Persellin - President
	C	Community Seat
X	I	Idara Uko - Vice-Chair
X	A	Sara Sweeney
X	B	Brenda Maulik
X	F	Sana Soussi
X	E	Durowaa Agyeman - Secretary
X	D	Jacob Stiith
NP	H	Emily Uhl - Treasurer

Guests
Holly Fischer - Exofficio
Julie Kresh - Policy Chair
Dan Rhinhart
Colleen Vickers
Michelle Edwards
William Thorpe
Tim Newcomb
Amna Soussi
Vijay Koya

Guests	Guests	Guests
Marwan Wardi	Szah Mkinini	Chrissy Rosenberg
Hayat El Hilali	Mohammed Ali	Afreen Khatoon
Nadia Soussi	Ameer Mirze	Akife Khatoon
Muktar Omar	Beth Dammer	Baquan Khan
Ioha Hassan	Abeeha Syed	Chala Ahmed
Sanaa Malaki	Jennie Brannum	Ghaleb Quan
Lydia Kannah Lansaweli	Elias Hamu	Daniel Ansa
Ruqiya Ahmed	Abby Marta	Merema Benti
Marwa Sallam	Kaven Godin	Rene Kison
Ahmed Adam	Hamdi Ali	Torri Sauve
Jemal Yusuf	Krystin Nergard	Muna Soussi
Saleh Ramahi	Fatima Elhaddi	Neila Soussi
Naoufel Soussi	Houat Mussa	Sundus Badev
Imad Zalloum	Vermica Sheck	Laurel Moh
Afina Benhamouda	Brittani Qassem	Kulan Tura
Saira Ghaffar	Kalid Awad	Mamadi Omer
Amin Yusuf	Bashir Barkadle	Ahmed Burhan
Eman Younus	Nejat Jusa	Ibrahim Mohamed

3. Reading of Mission Statement and Real Life Examples

1 minute

DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science will cultivate a passion for learning through an enriched and individualized approach to education. The DaVinci community will work together to ensure positive character development and build a strong foundation for continuous learning.

- Holly shared a video of a sixth grade science class student keeping his friend safe during an experiment.
- The DaVinci's Girls +1 Team won first place in their volleyball match going all the way to tiebreaker. Another DaVinci volleyball team took home 3rd place. They will also receive individual awards.
- Second grade had a reader's theater which was a success.

4. Community Comment 10 minutes

Community Comment is the only open forum portion of tonight’s meeting and is an opportunity to present an issue or concern to the Board of Directors. There is a maximum of ten minutes set aside for Community Comment. Each presentation should be limited to no more than two minutes. If your item needs follow-up from the board and/or staff or will require research etc., a decision may not be made during tonight’s meeting. Thank you for coming.

- Colleen Vickers (Parent) - Speaking in support of the AmazeWorks curriculum supplement by reading an email sent to Holly Fischer.
- Michelle Edwards (Parent of 7th grader) - Speaking in support of the AmazeWorks curriculum and the need to have representations of all backgrounds especially marginalized ones to develop character.
- William Thorpe (Parent) - Speaking in support of some materials of AmazeWorks but states that some of the materials go too far.
- Tim Newcomb (Parent for 7 years) - Speaking in support of AmazeWorks to combat racism and homophobia witnessed in the DVA community. One criticism is the hope for more communication with families regarding these lessons.
- Amna Soussi (Parent) - Raised criticisms about certain individuals including teachers and leadership.

5. Adoption of Agenda and Addendums 2 minutes

- Added Community Seat C special election announcement as item 10.5
- Motion to adopt the October 30th, 2023 Board meeting agenda as revised by Durowaa, seconded by Sana, it passes.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 DONATIONS

Unrestricted donations: available for viewing in the office
 Restricted donations: None

6.2 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2023 Board Meeting
 Motion to approve September Board meeting minutes as modified, seconded by Melanie, it passes.

7. Committee Updates and Review Committee Minutes 30 minutes

COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE

9.1 Finance Committee & Treasurer’s Update:
 Review monthly financial report

October 17, 2023

- We have received the first payment for ERC funds but not the second payment as there is an unofficial pause by the state for an investigation.
- Largest increase in rates of about 29% (around \$200,000 for the year)
- Sitting at a fund balance of about 28%.

9.2 HR/Compensation Committee:

October 27, 2023

- Began to evaluate the staff survey (around 51% responding rate) and have begun to notice trends.

- Will present to the Board in November about the results.

9.3 School Development Committee: October 11, 2023

- Boosterthon was a success and are looking at takeaways for next year.
- Getting save the dates and reaching out for sponsorships for the gala.

9.4 Policy Committee: Did not meet

8. Discussion- Administration Updates: Fischer/Rhinhart 15 minutes

Update regarding enrollment, activities and events at school, open positions for employment, and community involvement.

- Reading, math, and science proficiency are above Anoka-Hennepin with all categories trending down.
- We are under-enrolled in Kindergarten and Middle School.
 - 36 students have been unenrolled from the school over concerns regarding the LGBTQ+ items within the curriculum supplements
 - Once the audit is completed, the budget will be adjusted accordingly.
- Despite high levels of stress preceding conferences, teachers reported conferences went better than expected and have helped mend relationships between families and teachers.
 - There were 1297 conferences held within the two days.
- Middle school band and orchestra concerts took place this month, and there was a great improvement in student performance attributed to the change in schedule. Students now have rehearsal every 2 days rather than every 3 days.
- Stretch goal for Boosterthon was \$45,000 (up from \$30,000 last year) and we raised \$47,784 (school profit of \$41,395 and corporate matching of \$6,353).
 - Pledges for students were down slightly, however, Booster shared that this trended downwards across the board.
 - Kids and teachers were thrilled to see teachers getting slimed!
 - Sponsors were helpful, particularly in off-setting the cost of student t-shirts.
- We were awarded for 15 years of quality achievement by MACS.
- 14 DVA representatives participated at the Anoka Grande Day Parade. A committee will be formed to make this an even bigger event next year.
- Upcoming events:
 - Bedtime Stories: Friday, Nov 2, 2023 at 6:30pm
 - Heritage Night: Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023 at 6:30pm - 8:00pm

9 Old Business

9.1 Review and Approve Policy Kresh 15 minutes

Board approval required for the following Policy:

- Policy 532 Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds
 - Updates consist of MN statutory provisions that each school district must follow, board approval can occur in a single meeting under policy 208

Motion to approve Policy 532 as revised by Durowaa, seconded by Melanie. Votes in favor: Jake, Idara, Sara, Brenda, Melanie, and Durowaa; vote against: Sana. It passes.

9.2 Amazeworks Board 30 minutes

Provide additional background information regarding the use of Amazeworks as an optional curriculum supplement.

- AmazeWorks will operate as a Curriculum Supplement, like Kesler Science or IXL, which will complement, enrich, or extend the content of the curriculum.

- AmazeWorks will be used when students would benefit from lessons on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.
- AmazeWorks has been a resource for a number of years, but it will be used more robustly this year.
 - Teachers so far have had 2 training sessions this year on AmazeWorks. Training will continue throughout the year.
 - Teachers have the autonomy and flexibility to use the resource as it fits into their curriculum and planning.

10. New Business – Discussion/Action items

10.1 **Establishing a Listening Session versus Community in Board meetings Persellin 10 minutes** Discuss importance of a listening session versus community comment to hear input and information from the community.

- A listening session in addition to Community Comment is being considered by the Board to facilitate more dialogue between the community and Board.

10.2 **Action item from Board of Directors Development Workshop Board 30 minutes** Discuss the proposed timeline incorporating processes and steps to bring resolution to current controversy and reconciliation and restoration to the DVA community (teachers and staff and students and community).

- Holly presented the Timeline for Healing the Community
 - Phase One: Communications About Supplemental Curriculum
 - The opt-out process will be clarified for families. Emails will go out in the upcoming days to each family who have inquired about opting out.
 - Policy 604 (policy for opting out a student) and 606 (policy for reconsideration of textbooks or instructional materials) will be revised and sent out for Board approval.
 - Opting out must be specific to the instructional material or curriculum and is not a blanket opt-out from any mention or instance of a certain topic.
 - Phase Two: Board Strategic Planning
 - Phase Three: Professional Development
 - Amy Erendu can work with the curriculum review committee, and this conversation will be revisited after consideration of revisions to Policy 604.
 - Phase Four: Restorative and Healing Conversations
 - Phase Five: Student Engagement

Motion to approve the Timeline for Healing the Community by Sara, seconded by Brenda, it passes unanimously.

10.2 **Review DaVinci Academy Vision, Mission and Pillars Board 30 minutes** Review the Pillars and commence discussion regarding the clear incorporation of Equity in Character Development for further review.

10.3 **Winter Offsite Board 15 minutes** Start discussions on the scheduling of the winter offsite retreat. Request dates and agenda items from Board members.

- The vice-chair will gather some potential dates and Board members will reach out with agenda items as soon as possible.

10.4 **Executive Director Evaluation Board 30 minutes**

The Board will close the meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3, which permits the Board to close the meeting to evaluate the performance of an individual who is subject to its authority; namely Ms. Holly Fischer, the Executive Director. The Board will summarize its discussions at the next open meeting. The Executive Director has the option to have all evaluation meetings open to the public. The Board Chair inquired of the Executive Director whether she approved the Board closing the meeting to discuss her evaluation; as she does have the option to remain, and she approved the closing of the meeting.

- The meeting was closed at 7:48pm and re-opened at 8:22pm. The Board discussed and reviewed a small summary of the staff survey (which has not yet been finalized) and discussed the status of the professional mentoring.

10.5 Community Board Member Seat C Board 30 minutes

Community Board Seat C is open as the previous member became a DVA parent.

- This position will be posted publicly and via newspaper.

11. Meeting Assessment and Closing Thoughts Persellin 5 minutes

Did we spend our time effectively today? What could we do better?
 What do we, as a board, need to be focusing on for the next meeting?

11. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm by Durowaa, seconded by Melanie, it passes.

Estimated end time:	9:30 pm
Actual end time:	8:26 pm