

School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 30, 2012
Place: School Gym

Minute Taker: Kamille Peterson
Timekeeper: Terry Moffatt

1 Call to Order 6:02 AM

2 Roll Call

<u>Present</u>	<u>Members</u>
x	Terri Sheehan - Chair
x	Cory Klabunde
x	Therese O'Meara - Vice-Chair
x	Terry Moffatt
x	Doug Hiatt - Treasurer
x	Kamille Peterson - Secretary
x	Doug Dinndorf
x	Dale Lieb
x	Ravi Raghavapudi
x	Lynn Bakken
x	David Cauley

3 Reading of Mission Statement – Sheehan

Mission: DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science will awaken a passion for learning through an enriched and individualized approach to education. Students, parents and teachers will work together to ensure positive character development and build a strong foundation for higher education.

4 Community Comment

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 this evening.

Sheehan surveyed the community to determine the number of people wishing to address the board. Based upon the response, twenty minutes were set aside for comments from the community.

Discussion:

Deb (parent):

- Spoke in favor of the time change

- Acknowledged the difficult decisions of the board
- Feels high school plays into this, school starts earlier, more homework.

Kristin (parent):

- Difficult for mother of 6 to get the children to bed and allow children to see father
- Children will lose time with dad
- Difficult to get children here by 8 a.m.
- Knows of three families who will leave the school if the start time remains at 8:00 a.m.

Dawn (parent) and Emma (daughter):

- Concerned about the time change. Previously attended Oak View Middle, where school started at 8 a.m.
- Child feels overwhelmed by earlier school time. This school allows her to be successful - came to this school because of the start time.
- Child is in middle school and wants to make she gets as much sleep as she can.
- Children are taught to get as much sleep as they can and this is a change to that.
- Parent has experience with 8:30 a.m. start time and found it to be successful
- Signed on for the school at 9:00 a.m., but asking for consideration of a compromise of 8:30 a.m.

Thomas (parent):

- Family of early risers - leave house for work at 6:30 a.m.
- Kids up at 6:00 a.m. to get ready
- Pays for before-school care
- Will now be forced to do both before- and after-school care, increasing day care costs about another \$150 per week

Carrie (parent):

- Likes the 9:00 a.m. start time and doesn't
- If we are going to start earlier, is there an option for after-school care?
- Would need to adjust work situation or secure after-school care
- Sees the options on both sides of the topic – would like 8:30 a.m. compromise

Peggy (parent):

- Sees both sides - feels compromise may work - looking for a 30 minute change
- After school activities can still be a challenge, time-wise
- Wants to have kids having physical activity
- Compromise, since our school gets out so late, that kids cannot compete.
- Expressed concerns about “people squawking loud enough” that parents begin running the board and hinder the board decision process
- Look at Policy and Procedures for the board and decision making
- Allowing parents to raise enough concern to make the board change its decisions could create a dangerous precedent.

Laura (parent):

- Was told that the idea to change came from surveys
- Brought her children here because of the 9:00 a.m. start time
- All parents knew the start time when they signed up
- Her children attend later-time after-school activities.
- Hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. works for her family
- Will be difficult putting children to bed earlier, especially with year-round school.
- Curious about what research has been done to support the decision to go to an earlier start time

Patti (parent):

- People came here because they were told they would have more say in the school, and that the school would be great because they were stakeholders.
- Not sure if children can come here if the time change is implemented
- When family started here, DaVinci Academy was a non-competitive school – no athletics
- If school starts earlier, her child will have to stop gymnastics.
- Feels there has been a huge philosophy change at the school and doesn't want to see it change where parents do not have a voice
- Loves the education at DaVinci Academy and the philosophy
- Children are currently not getting enough sleep, citing sleep studies
- Will be more difficult, especially in the summer when other children are staying up later.

Tracy (parent):

- Is currently a member of the Communications Committee and active volunteer
- Loves the school
- Discussed how learning is impacted by sleep patterns
- Current schedule works best for her family
- Putting children to be early will be difficult, especially for working parents, who will have less time with their children when they go to bed early.
- On the homework issue, the younger grades don't have a lot of homework and it seems odd to change the start time when we have the majority of our students in the lower grades.
- Homework evidence says it is better to do homework in the morning rather than at night.
- Feels like a partner with the school - values the academic emphasis - loves the discipline – likes the children's focus on learning and the focus on children
- Requesting that the board reconsider, and change hours back to 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mike (parent):

- Came to the school because of how the school is and what the school stands for, not the start times
- Family has adapted to the later start time, but can adjust to new start time

- Children are involved in sports outside of school
- Not everyone will be happy with an earlier start time and it may not work for everyone.
- The teachers should have a say in this change.
- The change affects the amount of time his children get to see their mother.

Sheehan asked: How many community members in attendance participated in the Family Survey? All community members indicate participation by raise of hands.

5 Adoption of Agenda and Addendums

Discussion:

Add finance minutes to the agenda (April 23); Monthly financial board reports are included in the agenda; 6.8 should have a date of 4/26/12

Motion:

To accept the agenda with changes noted.

First: Peterson

Second: Bakken

Passed Unanimously

6 Consent Agenda

Meeting Minutes:

6.1 Board Meeting Minutes: 11.28.11, 03.03.12 Board Retreat, 03.26.12

6.2 Finance Committee Minutes:

6.3 Policies & Procedures Committee Minutes: 04.24.12

6.4 Communication Committee Minutes: 04.17.12

6.5 Facilities Committee Minutes: 04.17.12

6.6 Technology Committee Minutes: 04.16.12

6.7 Compensation Committee Minutes: 04.23.12

6.8 School Development Committee Minutes:

Donations:

6.9 \$116.30 of art supplies

6.10 \$3,286.40 PTO donation from Read-a-Thon

6.11 \$700.00 Holbrook Matching Donation: \$200 targeted to music program, \$500 for general purpose

Documents:

6.12 SEAC Bylaws

6.13 Policy 409 - Salary and Benefits

6.14 2013-15 Technology Plan for MDE Submission

Discussion: Need to add to compensation reference to personal days - up to 5

Motion:

To accept items listed in consent agenda as amended.

First: Hiatt
Second: Lieb
Passed Unanimously

7 Discussion: School Director Report - Cory Klabunde

Discussion:

Klabunde provided his monthly School Director Report. Board members had the following questions/comments: Do we still provide the parents of departing students with the option to take our Student Exit Survey? Yes, however most parents are not taking the survey. It was recommended that Klabunde resume administrative meetings, which have been temporarily discontinued due to students taking MCA tests in administrative offices. Klabunde advised administrators are meeting informally, and will resume formal meetings. Cauley expressed thanks from the teachers to put some things on hold for the students to have time to focus on testing. The Lifetouch fundraiser update will take place at the next board meeting.

8 Discussion: Academic Director Report - Terry Moffatt

Discussion:

Moffatt provided her monthly Academic Director Report. Board members had the following questions/comments: In response to how our current MCA test scores compare to last year, Moffatt advised third and fourth grades similar, the rest are lower, but overall she feels final results will be similar to last year. When questioned on the comparison of our test scores to those of other schools, Moffatt advised many school are doing testing one time or on paper, so comparison scores are now yet readily available. Moffatt was questioned on the need for the upcoming NWEA tests, since it seems our students are enduring a lot of testing. She advised a nationally-normed test, like the NWEA, is required by our charter. Moffatt further advised that 70% of the fifth grade students who have not passed the MCA test were new to our school in the fourth grade.

9 Discussion – Operations Calendar - Terri Sheehan

Discussion:

Tabled

10 Old Business

10.1 School Uniform Colors K-5, 6-8, 9-12 Cory Klabunde

Discussion:

Recommendation by Klabunde and Peterson: grades K-5 red polo, grades 6-8 forest green, and grades 9-12 navy blue and white, as options. Same pants/shorts options. Further discussion ensued. It was suggested we should think about keeping the colors all the same for grades K through eight. If we are going to make a change, do it now vs. later. Impending school split could be a better time to make a change. The board

discussed the visual impact for ages being in different colors, making it easy to identify older students from younger ones. Further discussion took place about waiting and not making premature decisions related to uniform colors. Comments were made about deciding sooner, allowing families time to make purchases.

Motion:

To use navy blue and white as the colors for student uniforms in grades nine and above.

First: Peterson

Second: Raghavapudi

Passed Unanimously

11 New Business – Discussion/Action items

11.1 School Hours - Terri Sheehan

Discussion: Recap school board approved change in school hours. Changed hours to 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., rather than current 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. A question regarding the change in hours was included in 2012 Family Survey. Respondents were also provided an opportunity to make comments regarding the change in the “Comments” section of the Survey. The responses to the survey question regarding the change in school hours were almost evenly split. Sheehan listed some of the major issues the board considered when making this decision. They included:

- Addition of high school beginning next year
- Providing additional time for extracurricular activities
- Teacher preference
- Impact to family schedules
- The regional make-up of our school
- Bus ride times and busing costs, which preclude multiple start times
- Research of start and end times for other schools
- Number of children currently arriving early leaving early
- Perceived vs. actual role of the school as day care provider
- Differences in elementary, middle school, and high school student needs
- Limited financial resources

Dinndorf reviewed the Family Survey responses relating to the school hours issue, and presented a summary of the findings, a copy of which is attached. With almost half of the stakeholders opposed to the new time, Dinndorf recommended further discussion by the board.

The board discussed the research questions several parents cited in the Family Survey and again tonight during community comments. Research shows that a later time for teens is better, but the research cited was based on schools starting in the 7 o'clock hour, and schools in those surveys generally moved start times to around 8:30 a.m. There is not a direct correlation to the change we have made. The studies show that later times produce better results for older kids, but do not speak to younger children.

A discussion ensued about the balancing act, students' needs, parents' needs, and teachers' needs. Review of area schools' start and end times was also part of the discussion. PACT is a charter school like DaVinci, K-12, pulling students from several districts. They changed hours to 8-3 four years ago, and have remained on that schedule.

Supporting our teachers, most of who are in favor of the earlier start time, is an important consideration in this discussion. Families recognize that teachers are the most important element of the education process. The Family Survey showed that attracting and retaining quality teachers was overwhelming rated as our highest priority in the "Looking Forward section of the survey.

Bakken shared his personal experience in deciding on DaVinci Academy, describing his preference for the school mission and philosophy over the hours. Another school had preferred hours, but family chose DaVinci.

The board discussed the possibility of a shortened school day. The administrators cited lack of evidence that this has a benefit. Moffatt and Klabunde indicated they are challenged to fit in all the academic requirements now and are not in favor of shortened days. A large part of the consideration for change of times was to allow for our increased academic rigor. Test scores do not show that we can move to a shorter school day. Our year-round calendar helps with longer breaks for children to spend time with family.

The board's retreat planning session discussion On March 3 found the topic of the school hours change to have enough concern to bring it to the March 26 board meeting, for further review, after board members had time to research the topic. The discussion about extracurricular activities was not a focus on athletics, but rather on academic-type activities (debate club, chess club, music, etc.). Athletics was not the driver.

Board decisions are based on research, experience and input from a variety of sources. Generally, the board assigns someone to do research on topics and make recommendations for discussion and voting. The board does not have a history of making decisions without adequate input.

Some suggestions have come up recently, including an 8:30 a.m. start time. This was discussed at the March 3 board meeting, but a decision was made to limit discussion to 8:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. An 8:30 a.m. start time was removed as an option.

Sheehan stated the board already made this decision, and questioned why it would reverse it. Of the three main stakeholder groups at our school (students, teachers and parents) the decision the board made recognizes the needs and preferences of those groups. Consideration of the implications of increased academic rigor for students and our teachers' preference for an earlier start time were key factors.

Teacher representation at the meeting indicated that the majority of teachers are in favor of the earlier start time. It was stated that the teachers were not unanimously in favor of the earlier start time, but the majority voiced support.

Many comments regarding after-school care were raised in the survey and community comments. It was noted that before- and after-school care came in 8th (in the ranking of 10) in the “Looking Forward” section of the Family Survey. The school cannot currently accommodate a before- and after-school care option. There is not adequate space for this activity, since both the gym and classrooms are in use at that time. The administration is currently looking at after-school activities that will be available next school year.

Lieb stated a possible approach to the decision of the change in times is to restart the discussion and go back to the original hours.

Raghavapudi recalls the discussion about the hours change and its impact on teachers, parents and students. He felt this change was best in conjunction with the increased academic rigor our students are facing, and therefore beneficial for students and teachers. Peterson concurred.

Motion:

To repeal the previous decision of the 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. time and return it to the 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. time.

First: Cauley

Second: Hiatt

Ayes: Lieb, Hiatt, Cauley

Nays: Bakken, Dinndorf, O’Meara, Raghavapudi, Peterson, Sheehan

Motion did not pass

Motion:

To implement new school hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

First: Hiatt

Second: Dinndorf

Ayes: Lieb, Hiatt, Dinndorf, Cauley

Nays: Bakken, O’Meara, Raghavapudi, Peterson, Sheehan

Motion did not pass

11.2 PTO Update - Dina Lantzer

Discussion:

Tabled. Ms Lantzer was not able to attend.

11.3 Transportation Vendor - Doug Hiatt

Discussion:

The school has received improved feedback on our busing vendor from prior years. There are still some issues to be worked out with transportation. Finance Committee recommends staying with the current vendor. Order of student pick-up/drop-off needs

to be looked at. The Facilities Committee is getting some information that will show family locations, which may aid in making transportation decisions. Parents registered concerns in the Family Survey regarding the length of bus rides and a desire that the school consider a “first on/first off” route realignment.

Motion:

To keep the school’s current busing vendor, Kottkes, for 2012-2013.

First: Dinndorf

Second: Raghavapudi

Passed Unanimously

11.4 Lawn and Snow Vendor - Doug Hiatt

Discussion:

At the last Finance Committee meeting, three bids were presented. The current vendor was the low cost bid. Our current vendor has been very responsive and is looking at providing some lawn services at no cost, since they didn't have 13 snow removals this past winter.

Motion:

To keep the school’s current vendor, JD Irrigation, for snow removal and lawn services

First: Hiatt

Second: Dinndorf

Passed Unanimously

11.5 Food Service Vendor - Doug Hiatt

Discussion:

During the last two board meetings, food was provided by potential new vendors, Taher and Premier Kitchen, for the school’s lunch program. Bids were received from four providers. One of those bids was substantially more than the others, and was excluded from the discussion. The school’s current vendor, Done Right Foods, proposed to increase their price by \$.05 per meal for next year. Two new vendors, Taher and Premier Kitchen, provided bids that match the current per meal pricing we receive. However, Premier’s bid also includes a daily delivery charge, which makes their proposal slightly more expensive. It was agreed that the quality of food provided by both new vendors was very good.

Motion:

To use Taher as the school’s food vendor for 2012 – 2013, provided we get confirmation that they offer a peanut free menu, otherwise use Premier Kitchen

First: Raghavapudi

Second: Lieb

Ayes: Lieb, Hiatt, Bakken, Dinndorf, Cauley, Raghavapudi, Peterson, Sheehan

Nays: O’Meara

Passed

11.6 Draft 2012-13 Budget - Doug Hiatt

Discussion:

Update on 2012 – 2013 budget process. Overall, to-date the figures we have input are showing we are on track to stay within budget for next year. Hiatt asked all committee chairs to make sure they have submitted their expense items.

11.7 Family Survey Results Process - Doug Dinndorf

Discussion:

Dinndorf has drafted the response to the Family Survey for the last two years. The board has reviewed the responses, provided input and approved the final draft. This year, Dinndorf requested input and feedback from all board members regarding the survey responses, particularly comments stakeholders made. A deadline of May 15 was set for members to get their comments to Dinndorf.

11.8 Q-Comp Proposal - Dale Lieb and Terry Moffatt

Discussion:

Ninety-two percent of DaVinci Academy teachers approved moving forward with the school's Q-Comp application to the state. The next step is to have the board approve the Q-comp application, which has received extensive review, obtain approval of our Authorizer, Friends of Education, and submit application to the state.

Motion:

To have the board approve submission of the school's Q-Comp application to the state

First: Cauley

Second: O'Meara

Passed Unanimously

11.9 Board Committee Assignments - Terri Sheehan

Discussion:

This item will be discussed at the board retreat scheduled for June 9. Calendars will also be reviewed at that time.

12 Adjourn the meeting

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

First: Hiatt

Second: Lieb

Passed Unanimously