

1. Call to order @6:06PM

2. Roll Call

Present	Chair	Board Members
X	G	Melanie Persellin - President
NP	C	Saurabh Bokil
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
Aboubakr Mekrami
Amna Soussi
Mesra Ali
H. N.
Fatya Denko
Mustafa W
Kulan Tara

Guests (Continued)				
Marwa Salam	Amar Albourae	Ilham Mell	Bedatu Bekuto	Ameen Mirze
Zaineb Alassedy	Bacca Mekrami	Saif Aljuneili	Manan Farah	Hersi Adam
Nahimana Abasi Frank	Elias Hamu	Misra Ahmed	Saleh Ramahi	Mona Soussi
Neila Soussi	Mame Tesso	Kalid Awad	Miyada Hussein	Rene Kisrow
Milkessa Mohammed	Nejat Mussa	Ibrahim Mohamed	Ameer Ismaeel	May Aljumaili
Jelou Kedir	Madino Tahiro	Idil Jama	Slah Mkhinini	Ahmed Adem
Roua Asad	Claude Hascur Jr	Laila Bahri	Asma Benhamouda	Rania Yusuf
Chala Ahmed	Akifa Khatoon	Mafahe Devey	Haiut Mussa	Wasen Aluasar
Muktar Omar	Isha Hassan	Abderrahman Ben Abdallah	Sundu Buder	Imad Zallonm
Ahmed Burhan	Eman Younus	Nadia Soussi	Hanen Bouchuik	Maha Soussi
Mohamed A E				

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 the 6th grade trip to Long Lake Conservation Center.

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.

- Aboubakr Mekrami, Speaking on the behalf of multiple parents regarding opposition to AMAZEworks
 - Objection to the optional LGBTQ+ resource on the basis that it contradicts the core beliefs of the DaVinci Muslim community.
 - Requests that the Board removes this resource.
 - Worries that it will cause unnecessary stress and anxiety for kids.
- Amna Soussi, Speaking on the behalf of around 100 parents (~120 students) regarding opposition to AMAZEworks
 - Claims that families have already left because of the curriculum and the feeling that students/families are being targeted.

5. Adoption of Agenda and Addendums

2 minutes

- Motion to approve today's agenda by Sara, seconded by Brenda, it passes.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 DONATIONS

Unrestricted donations: available for viewing in the office

Restricted donations: None

6.2 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2023 Board meeting

- Motion to approve the August Board meeting minutes by Idara, seconded by Durowaa, it passes.

7. Discussion- Administration Updates:

Fischer 15 minutes

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

- There are a number of openings to work at DaVinci.
- Commissioner Willie Jett is scheduled to do a tour of the school on September 27th.
- Mike Jones, who runs a non-profit called Professional Theater and Dance Troop Academy in Chicago, will do a dance residency for two weeks.
- Amy Nguyen, the art teacher, has been working with EF Tours and has proposed a trip to Rome and Pompeii, Italy to study art.
- The Great Gatsby Gala will be held March 2, 2024. There will be more information coming soon about this event.
- Conferences will be held 11am-7pm on October 16th and 17th.
- We have just finished 10 years of ELC trips: Eagle Bluff, Long Lake, Wolf Ridge

- Students were able to set their own goals, enrich their learning through nature, and character development.
- Students and staff also experience community building.
- We should have conversations on how to continue these trips as they can be expensive for both the school and the families.

8. Academic Update: Erendu 15 minutes

Discussion on the status of the NWEA scores at DaVinci and discussion regarding MCA scores from 2022-2023.

- In general, we are above the national average for mean RIT scores for reading, math, and science.
- Academic timeline addresses all of the issues and questions the Board raised during the off-site retreat strategic meeting.

9. Committee Updates and Review Committee Minutes 30 minutes

COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE

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

September 20, 2023

- Looking at potential vendors to streamline HR processes.
- The target for presenting the audit to the Board is November, but we will continue to push for October. The audit is currently coming to a close.
- A fraudulent check came through, so there was a discussion about preventing check fraud.
- Start of the school year expenses (higher than expected) and will level out.

9.2 HR/Compensation Committee:

September 13, 2023

- 64 responses (41% of the staff) for the staff survey, which will close at the end of this month. The target is 60% participation.
- Next steps will be discussed at the October meeting
- Holly has reached out to a company to do these surveys/evaluations professionally, which we can use Friends of Education as a resource to move forward.

9.3 School Development Committee:

September 13, 2023

- Working on the booster as we move into October.
- Dan met with the Development Director of Eagle Ridge, and Dan will be a part of a working group of 20+ programs to bounce ideas off of.

9.4 Policy Committee:

September 8, 2023

- Discussed a few policies that will need revisions and Board approval: 504, 524, 532 need Board approval; 522 and 533 just had minor revisions and no Board approval needed.

10. Old Business - None

11. New Business – Discussion/Action items

11.1 Review and Approve Policy Kresh **45 minutes**

Board approval required for the following Policies:

- Policy 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety
 - 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 524 as revised by Durowaa, seconded by Sana, it passes unanimously.

- Policy 524-F1 Staff Acceptable Internet Use Agreement

Motion to approve Policy 524 by Idara, seconded by Sara, it passes unanimously.

- Policy 524-F2 Student Acceptable Internet Use Agreement

Motion to approve as amended Policy 524-F2 as revised, seconded by Brenda, it passes unanimously.

- 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

Will will review Policy 532, which will seek Board approval during the October 2023 Board Meeting.

- Policy 504 Student Uniform/Dress Code

The Policy Committee will bring a proposal to the Board during the October 2023 meeting.

11.2 Introduction to AMAZEworks Anti-Bias Books as a Resource for Community Building Persellin **45 minutes**

Discussion regarding the incorporation of the AMAZEworks books as a resource for teachers to utilize in assisting students and the community. The AMAZEworks resources utilize children's picture books to incorporate the tenets of Anti-Bias Education in order to create classrooms of equity and belonging. The Board will hear from DaVinci Teachers on their use of the resources and how it provides an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about identity, difference and bias. This can also be helpful in preventing biased-based teasing and mistreatment and maintaining a safe and supportive school environment. Students learn and feel better in classrooms where they feel seen and valued for all of who they are. Students learn about empathy, accepting oneself, respect for others, noticing and rejecting bias and standing up for themselves and others.

- Below are the various AMAZEworks themes that were presented by several DaVinci teachers. They explained the meaning behind each theme, research behind these themes, and how these themes are practiced in the classroom:
 - Mirrors and Windows - Mrs. Severson (8th)
 - Empathy and Understanding - Mrs. Baker (4th)
 - Healthy, Complex Identities - Mrs. Marta (2nd)
 - Respect Across Differences - Mrs. Metty (K)
 - Notice, Name & Reject Bias - Mrs. Marta (2nd)
 - Responsiveness and Action - Mrs. Dalske (Ren)
- All families have the ability to opt-out of any AMAZEworks book. They must notify Holly in writing about books they do not want students to read/be discussed with them.
- These stories have been used since 2021 to address unkindnesses between groups of students.
- It is considered to be a resource to augment the character development curriculum.
- We will reach out to the Muslim Advocacy Council and Idara suggested putting together guidelines to create a committee to advise on AMAZEworks as it relates to the DaVinci curriculum.

11.3 Discussion on Muslim Advocacy Council **Soussi and Board** **15 minutes**

Discuss the Muslim Advocacy Council - current members of the council and their specific duties.

Additionally, explain the prayer agreements that the council has in place.

- Have organized a prayer agreement that needs to be signed by the parent/guardian and students.
- The Muslim Advocacy Council created prayer passes for students, rules, and consequences for prayer time for students, etc.
- Challenges for students that are being addressed by the council and school include: locating prayer space, creating a better school understanding of Ramadan, accommodating prayer time and space.
- The council will be meeting monthly.

11.4 Enrollment and Waitlist **Stith and Drahiem** **20 minutes**

Discussion on the status of enrollment and marketing ideas. Enrollment department to discuss waitlist.

- Since the start of the school year, there have been 42 students that have left for a variety of reasons.

12. Meeting Assessment and Closing Thoughts **Vice-Chair** **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?

13. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm by Jake, seconded by Sana, it passes.

Estimated end time:

9:30 pm

Actual end time:

8:43 pm