



School Board Meeting MINUTES

Saturday, June 25th 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

DaVinci Academy

1. Call to order

2. Roll Call

Present	Board Members	Guests
X	Melanie Persellin - President	Ahava Silkey-Jones – Ex-Officio Member
0	Ojonimi Ocholi- Vice President	Holly Fischer - Interim Executive Director
0	Idara Uko-Treasurer	
0	Lenny Ulloa Silva-Secretary	
0	Katharine Borg	
0	Samantha Bickford	
0	Jacob Stith	
0	Emma Fisher	
0	Emily Uhl	

3. Reading of Mission Statement and Real Life Examples 2 minutes

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.

- Mystery readers in Ms. Borg’s class

4. Adoption of Agenda and Addendums 2 minutes

- Motion to adopt the agenda by Emily, seconded by Emma, it passes.

5. Equity Alliance - Environmental Scan Update All 95 minutes

Review output of the Equity Alliance Environmental Scan and brainstorm next steps for Davinci Academy. Update to be provided by Alex from Equity Alliance.

- Answers were 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)
- One concern was the amount of support staff that completed the survey. 68% of teaching staff, 100% admin, 65% students, and 28% support staff.
- Shared vision for equity:
 - Staff noted that the school lacks policy on equity and that there is a “lack of visible accountability from the board” in matters relating to the creation of Shared Vision for Equity.
 - Parents and students felt that their input (regarding equity) did not matter.
 - Parents/guardians and community members pointed to a Facebook group for DaVinci parents as an example of the hostile climate at DaVinci and in direct conflict with any equity initiatives the school may have.
 - Students reported having a lack of trust for school staff and fractured relationships with people tasked with supporting them.
 - Staff praised the Equity Team for trying to make the school more inclusive.
- Efficacy of Programs:
 - Teachers expressed satisfaction with levels of trust by the administration in their work. Teachers who participated in the focus group noted that as teachers they are “very trusted” to carryout their duties as teachers.
 - Staff praised the mentorship program for new teachers, observing that they “really like just how much training there’s been towards first-year teachers.”



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- Staff noted the absence (short-staffed) of support for students' Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).
- Staff raised concerns over lack of professional development for staff. Teachers noted that they support equity initiatives but there is a "lack of action and follow through" by administration. Staff expressed the need for professional development opportunities regarding, LGBTQ issues, Black history, and practice of mindfulness in the classroom.
- Curriculum Represents Equity
 - Staff noted that the curriculum was not inclusive and could be considered biased against students with marginalized identities.
 - Staff expressed that the teaching curriculum is dominated by "white centric experiences" that
 - misrepresents non-European cultures.
 - Teachers have been trying to diversify the curriculum by bringing in their own resources as they report the school's curriculum lacks diversity. However, these attempts were not always successful as "families pushback" efforts to have curriculum reflect DaVinci Academy's changing demographics.
 - "I don't think the texts are relevant to our students."
- Learner centered-practices
 - While students who participated in the focus group felt that the school environment was welcoming, they expressed concern over lack of equity in the school curriculum and activities.
 - I know why we are learning what we are learning: 2.54
 - My teachers notice me and make sure I am learning: 1.84
- Inclusive and Responsive Communication
 - While most students and parents felt welcomed and connected with someone from the school during the initial stages of enrollment, families and students for whom English may not be their first language felt school communication was mostly in English and thus not inclusive.
 - Staff noted that communication within the building is sometimes lacking, especially via the walkie talkies.

6. Review of Mission/Vision/Goals/Objectives/Strategy All 100 minutes

Review Mission/Vision + Goals/Objectives/Strategy and ensure they are still current or evaluate any updates that may be required to accomplish Board/School goals. Additionally review School Calendar.

- Vision ideas: DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science ~~will be known and respected for providing a dynamic educational experience in which~~ students ~~will be become~~ lifelong learners ~~and leaders who make meaningful contributions with a sense of responsibility~~ to society.



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Possible final vision: DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science students will be lifelong learners and leaders who make meaningful contributions to society.

- Mission ideas: DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science will ~~awaken~~ *cultivate* a passion for learning through an enriched and individualized approach to education. The DaVinci community ~~Students, parents and teachers~~ (or DaVinci community? but what is “DaVinci community?”) will work together to ensure positive character development and build a strong foundation for ~~higher education~~ *continuous learning*.

Possible final version: 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.

7. Policy Topics for Board Discussion All 90 minutes

Review Sample Code of Conduct & draft comprehensive onboarding packet for new/all board members

- 7.1. Create Onboarding Schedule
- 7.2. Layout information & requirements needed coming onto the board
- 7.3. Discuss potential overlaps with Training

- The policy committee will review Policy 209 and create a form to sign.

8. Board Training All 70 minutes

Comprehensive review of training options. Board to do 1-2 training options live with possible discussion. New Board members to also highlight their recent experiences to help shape any needed updates.

9. Community Engagement: Discuss Board & Parent interactions All 45 minutes

Learn about current avenues that support communication between the board & parents. Discuss the following questions:

- How do open comment discussion items from previous meetings get handled
- Consider having a Board Table at Open House and if any other board members are interested.
- Parents usually get an email simultaneously to meet with the ED as they are giving the comment during the open comment section of the board meeting.
- Some parents might decide not to meet.
- We will create a form for parents to fill out and the board president will send a thank you email and some extra steps that might need to be taken.
- There might be a table during the open house.

10. Community Engagement: Discuss Board Elections All 50 minutes

Recent elections have only 15% or less of the total population participating. Two questions to consider:

- How do we get more in the community to vote for better representation across the board?
- How can we make each vote better reflect the voice of the whole community (e.g. Election run off, Rank voting, etc)?

11. School Topic - Early Release (Students) / Staff Meeting times All 40 minutes

With current plans to eliminate recess for middle school and the growth of the school, teachers are faced with a challenge regarding meeting times and work collaboratively. If an Early Release schedule is considered, it would provide staff valuable time mid week. Board discussion required in case it impacts the school schedule.



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12. General Discussion All Time Permitting General strategy and business discussion, intersessions (academic and non-academic), school contact days and calendar.

- Motion to adjourn by Katie, seconded by Emily, it passes.

Adjourn Meeting

Estimated end time:

5:30 pm

Actual time:

5:14 pm