



School Board – SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes for Thursday, October 2, 2014

DaVinci Academy, 8:32pm

1. Call to order

2. Roll Call

Present	Board Members	Guests
x	Ross Meisner - President	
x	Mike Hebert – Vice President	
x	Doug Hiatt - Treasurer	
x	Sunil Unnikrishnan - Secretary	
	Dale Lieb	
	Tom Trempe	
x	Erin Nelson	
x	Debra Lach, Ex-Officio Member	

3. Reading of Mission Statement 1 minute

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. Adoption of Agenda and Addendums 1 minute

*Mike Herbert move to approve the Agenda
 Seconded by: Sunil Unnikrishnan
 Approved by: All*

5. Old Business – Discussion/Action items

None.

6. New Business – Discussion/Action items

6.1 – School expansion/replication planning All 90 minutes

- Discuss feedback from public Townhall Meeting.
- Continue discussion of overall school expansion strategy and high-school plan.
- Discuss, decide and vote on school expansion or replication plan.
- Discuss, decide and vote on grant application for school expansion/replication.
- Discuss, decide and vote on elements of the high school plan (timing, enrollment, etc.).

Feedback from Public Town hall meeting – Approximately 70 in attendance and board received 20 written responses for various committee roles and few interested in board membership.

Mike – Two opinionated sides. One group wants to keep K-8 pristine and not get into HS program. Other group wants to expand and continue with the success we had with K-8.

Sunil – Focus on Davinci niche (academic excellence) and not take everything on like other schools.

Debra – Concerned about sustainability related to corporate sponsorship. Incremental funding should be thought through. Parent engagement with their time and money are concerns.

Ross – Additional grades to support expansion should start from 6th grade to support 9th grade enrollment based on the proposed timeline.

Mike – 5 parents interested in board membership and another election to get them on board.

Ross – Community elects who they want on board. Within February board can appoint new members to the board to either support or discourage school expansion.

Mike – Have opportunity to start process on grant.

Erin – Community members interested on board. We cannot wait for new members, as grant application is due by 4pm by October 27th 4 pm.

Debra – Outsiders cannot write grant application. Expertise is needed.

Erin – 100% teachers in the town hall think we are not ready for High School program. Maybe doubling the school size was their concern. Increasing the size of K-8 totally changes the dynamic. General concern that we will be losing the “small” nature of the school.

Doug – The concern might also may be due to influx of additional teaching staff.

Debra – It takes time to build culture of school.

Mike – Culture won’t change. Doubling is rattling some nerves.

Ross – In general there is a sense of “do not ‘rock” mentality. Main question tonight – Should we start grant application? Hiring a grant writer? Work with board members? School plan must be described in the grant and do not have much time to spend on grant application.

Mike – Do not have time to spend on grant application.

Sunil – Willing to contribute and make time, but no expertise in grant application. Will work with group.

Erin – Willing to contribute and make time, but no expertise in grant application. Will work with group.

Doug – Willing to contribute and make time, and wanted to work as a group.

Ross – Need a point of contact for the grant process, group not effective without a lead person. Concerned about board readiness and commitment to do proper and accurate grant application.

Debra – MDE has already started working on our data. I will attend Oct. 8th MDE working session.

Doug – Will try to adjust schedule and attend the meeting on 8th.

Ross Meisner – motion to proceed and submit the grant application according to letter of intent, and hire a grant writer for \$6500 to work with board..

Seconded by: Sunil Unnikrishnan

Approved by: All

7. Adjourn Meeting

Doug Hiatt move to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by: Erin Nelson

Approved by: All

Meeting end time:

10:10 pm