



School Board Meeting MINUTES

Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:00pm

DaVinci Academy

1. Call to order @6:03

2. Roll Call

Present	Board Members
X	Melanie Persellin - President
X	Samantha Bickford -Vice President
X	Idara Uko - Treasurer
X	Lenny Ulloa Silva - Secretary
X	Katharine Borg
X	Emily Uhl
	Open Community Member Seat
X	Jacob Stiith
X	Emma Fisher

Guests
Holly Fischer - Interim Executive Director
Dan Rinhart
Julie Kresh
Andrea Halverson
Saurabh Bokil
Durawaa Agyeman-Mensah
Reuben Ustimchuk

3. Reading of Mission Statement and Real Life Examples 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.

- *Environmental learning centers trip*

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.

- *No Community Comment*

5. Adoption of Agenda and Addendums 2 minutes

Motion to approve made by Idara, seconded by Lenny, passes unanimously,

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 DONATIONS

Unrestricted donations: available for viewing in the office

Restricted donations:

6.2 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 22nd, 2022 Board meeting

Motion made by Katie, Seconded by Sam, Passed unanimously

7. Community Member Candidate Forum for Board Appointment Board 90 minutes

Pursuant to Bylaws Article IV, Section 7 Unless otherwise provided by Minnesota Statutes, Section 317A.227, vacancies on the Board of Directors caused by death, disqualification, resignation, disability, removal or such other cause may be filled by appointment of a new director by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, even if less than a quorum. A director filling a vacancy shall hold office



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until the term of the replaced Director expires, or until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified, subject to his or her earlier death, disqualification, resignation or removal. The following candidates provided Applications for consideration (in order of receipt):

- a. Saurabh Bokil (Application and Resume)
- b. Durawaa Agyeman-Mensah (Application and Resume)
- c. Reuben Ustimchuk (Application)

- Motion to appoint Durowaa to Seat E as a community member made by Lenny, Seconded by Sam. Katie Borg, Melanie Persellin, Emily Uhl, Emma Fisher, Sam Bickford, and Lenny Ulloa Silva vote to approve her appointment to the board. Those opposed are Jake Stith and Idara Uko.

8. Discussion- Administration Updates: Holly Fischer 30 minutes
Rebranding project and financial considerations, times and areas of focus, Schooldigger rankings released

- Top 6 ranked are charters, DVA ranks 31st/500, Volunteer hours come out to 181 hours(not including the trips taken), 975 students enrolled –there were 13 drops this year and the school budgeted for 970 but we have five extra), proposing to stop enrollment until enrollment drops below the budgeted 970, lots of new behavioral issues where slowing new enrollments would be helpful in classrooms, proposed to table until October, four people have resigned within a week including the dean in elementary, We need to discuss how to rebrand/brand more to reflect Da Vinci in the building, need to allocate \$25-30,000 to look/address branding, next step in rebranding is to 1. approve rebranding at board 2. get people to be on a team to address rebranding (team of committee members not board led) 3. bring stuff to the board to discuss, North Lakes Academy came to DVA to propose a partnership, new proposal is to combine the two schools and either DAV or NLA has to dissolve their charter in order to become one so the schools has a natural high school, Holly's concerns are 1. very different management strategies and very different schools, 2. moving in this direction is a little daunting, 3. lots of legal stuff to consider still 4. There aren't very many compelling reasons to combine the schools.

9. Education/Academic Update Halverson/Academic Director 20 minutes
Presentation on MCA scores and provide updates and strategies moving forward.

- Across the board, testing is far higher than the state level, since the pandemic proficiency has dropped as to be expected and similar to the amount that the state has dropped but DAV is still ahead, MDE suggested goal is to improve MCAs math by 3% and Reading by 2%

10. Committee Updates and Review Committee Minutes 40 minutes

COMMITTEE

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

The Audit Engagement Letter was signed with MMKR.

10.2 HR/Compensation Committee:

10.3 School Development Committee:

Dan Rhinhart will present on the Boosterthon and funds raised. Also Katie Borg will discuss the process on the reporting and use of fundraising dollars.

10.4 Policy Committee:

The following policies received minor revisions and do not require Board approval:

MEETING DATE

September 21, 2022

Did not meet

September 14, 2022

September 9, 2022



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- Policy 208 Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies
- Policy 514 Bullying Prohibition
- Form 514F Report of Bullying Behavior
- Policy 806 Crisis Management

The following policy has a recommended verbiage addition that will require board approval:

- Policy 209 Code of Ethics (verbiage addition is found on the top of page 3 of 4 of the policy, section II, D, 5 and on page 21 of 66 in the attachment)
- Suggested verbiage talked about at the meeting:

"I understand that individual Board members are not authorized to speak on DaVinci's behalf, including social media comments and other electronic communications. Accordingly, when I am speaking about matters concerning DaVinci, including comments on social media and other electronic communications, I will specify that I am doing so in my individual capacity, and not on behalf of DaVinci or the Board."

Additionally, revisiting the proposed changes to the DaVinci Academy employee handbook with respect to the tuition assistance program discussed at the August board meeting. After further research on the questions raised at the August Board regarding the employee tuition assistance the following information to share:

- Since this information has been tracked over the last 3 years, all but one employee who has participated in the tuition assistance program is still currently working at DaVinci Academy.
- The total annual reimbursement increasing from \$800 to \$1600 is an employee benefit and retention tool.
- The request is that the annual allowance be increased from \$3,000 to \$10,000.
- With the addition of allowing funds to be used for exams and assessments such as MTLE's and ParaPro, it is estimated approximately 4-6 staff would use the funds to assist in financing the MTLE's (4-6 staff x \$225 = \$900-\$1350), and it is also estimated approximately 3-5 staff would use the funds to help finance the ParaPro assessment (3-5 staff x \$80 = \$240-\$400).

Motion to approve the Employee handbook change made by Melanie, Seconded by Jacob, it passes unanimously

10.5 Covid-19 Task Force Discussion with Board regarding sundowning Covid Committee and Task Force.

Motion to dismantle the CoVid Task force made by Jacob, seconded by Emily, It passes unanimously.

11. Old Business

11.1 **Review of the Equity Environmental Scan Summary** Fischer 30 minutes
Review of draft summary correspondence and proposed timelines for completion of proposed objectives.

12. New Business – Discussion/Action items

12.1 **Managing 2023 Elections** Persellin **5 minutes**



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Sam and Lenny will be taking this on. Potentially to be discussed more at the October Meeting.
Melanie Persellin (Parent/Guardian Seat G) and Emily Uhl (Parent/Guardian Seat F).

12.3 **Revamping Community Comment** **Fisher** **5 minutes**

Provide Board with proposal for Community Comment modifications.

Moved to october meeting

12.4 **Meeting Assessment and Closing Thoughts** **President** **2 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

Estimated end time:

8:00 pm

Motion to adjourn, Sam, Seconded by Jacob. it passes unanimously