



**Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2010**

Open Session Meeting called to order at 8:10 a.m.

Board Members Present:

- Don Brann, Vice President
- Cheryl Cook, Secretary
- Gary Wayland, Treasurer

Staff Present:

- Matt Wunder, Executive Director
- Tom Cox, Wiseburn Chief Business Official

Guest Presenters:

- Nicole Temple, Principal
- Erin Hughes, Assistant Principal
- Steve Wallis, Assistant Principal
- Colleen O'Boyle, Academic Dean

Visitors Present:

- Yolanda Saldana-Bautista, Stand-in Secretary
- Marshall Vallelunga, Da Vinci Parent

August 16, 2010 minutes unanimously approved.

From the public

Marshall Vallalunga- La County Science Fair has been approved to host the County Science Fair International-if you win you get a free entry to the International Science Fair (\$100,000 grand prize)

Information from the Board

- Cheryl Cook- everything appears to be going well at Da Vinci (students look sharp in school attire and excited to come to school)
- Gary Wayland- Mira Costa and Redondo are holding college night in October. Colleen O'Boyle will follow up with Gary to see if Da Vinci can be invited? 75 schools attending.
- Don Brann- First day of school was exciting and got off to amazing start with the morning rally. Commitment level on all parts is high.
- Don B- Standards and standardized testing- What it means at Da Vinci Schools. Great job from Diane Levitt, Carla Levenson and Matt Wunder putting a document together on the subject. Need to incorporate talk points into document. API will come out on Monday.
- Don B- Tom Johnstone announced at retiree breakfast that DV Science performed highly on the CSTs in the area of Language Arts - better than all other local schools. Don - We need to be able to explain how we did that?

Discussion Items

1. Financial Report and Unaudited Financials (Tom Cox and Gary Wayland)

- On target with financials- two documents will be provided to state (One for each school)
- Financial Report will be turned in on Sept 15th – Matt and Tom Cox will need to sign
- Final reporting will include the 501 3c activity (donations)



- Collected everything from grant monies, except \$150,000 from one grant
- Monies in reserve- DV Design: \$50,000 set aside for Spec Ed, \$365,000 for Economic Uncertainties; DV Science: \$50,000 for Spec Ed, \$546,000 for Economic Uncertainties
- Being a new school last year we were not affected by the state cut backs - next year we will be included.
- Sources of income State Aid - ADA x students + property taxes= Wiseburn gives a % to charter
- Matt and Tom C will work on DV budget. Gary will assist after Sept 15th.
- Reserves over \$1 million= \$400,00 Design, \$600,000 Science
- If and when the schools separate the reserves will be split. Reserves would need to be negotiated at that time.
- Unanimous vote to authorize the filing of Budget Actuals.

2. Bond Campaign Update (Matt)

- Last Friday Dennis Curtis and Dr. Johnstone met with DV staff about campaign
- Currently in the Endorsement stage- scrip and FAQs are ready for volunteers
- Tom J contacted Diane Levitt who will help with political endorsements
- Tom Cox- The topic of Unification vs Charter will come up frequently with prospective voters. Parents simply want a good school for their children and are not so concerned with the government of the school. It is important we keep discussion simple.
- 2/3 vote needed to pass.

3. Annual Giving (Matt)

- Carla – Goal \$75,000. \$40,000 brought in and still collecting.
- Would like to see 100% staff and board participation
- Thank you event for donors was discussed. Gary expressed the desire to meet and thank some of our contributors.

4. Enrollment (Matt)

- 683 currently enrolled. Enrollment summary was provided.
- Unexpectedly lost many of our returning 10th graders. Plan is in progress to avoid this loss in the future.
- It is customary to lose approximately 10%.
- We need to focus on locking in the students at end of every year. Important to maintain frequent contact with families throughout the summer.

5. Academic Dean- Academic Overview (Colleen O'Boyle)

Vision and plan- Who do we serve? Also important is- How do we serve?

- College counseling – Personalized counseling with not only applications but help from 9th grade on. Putting on four college nights to educate the parents on their options- Let parents know that colleges look for a holistic student, not just academic grades, etc.
- Internship program- Forming the holistic student. Internships begin junior year – during school day students will leave campus and go to a work place such a Belkin and Northrop Grumman. Concerns: transportation, use of tools, incidents/accidents that may occur, responsibilities lie where?



- Intervention Program- A program was rolled out last year. Catalyst to the problem- Is it behavior or academic concerns that are holding the student from learning?
- Academic rigor: We must have academic rigor to hold our students. Oct 5th is Principal/Academic Dean Night for parents and students. Graduation requirements and college requirements will be laid out.
- Early College Courses: Currently we have 1 speech class for design and 1 for science as well as PLTW classes that are year long. Students must take 2 college courses before graduating. 10th graders in science school are currently taking a college credit Art class.

6. **Da Vinci Overnighter** (Steve Wallis)

- Steve expressed gratitude to the Board for allowing the overnighter to happen. Positive connections were made by staff and students.
- out of 266 9th graders, 250 attended
- \$18,000 collected. 166 paid – Steve will follow up with the others.
- \$72 per student actual cost.
- Approximate cost to Da Vinci is \$7,000

7. **Rigor, Math and Academic Excellence Program** (Nicole Tempel)

- Math rigor is a focus. We need more data to move forward.
- Essential skills- DV teachers are identifying 10 skills from the 60 standards to be the focus.
- Final assessment of essential skills is the digital portfolio presentations in December and end of year. Student present the - I can
- PD on Monday is about DV's vision and mission statement. College ready, career prepared and community minded
- How do we measure success? What does great instruction look like? Teachers helped create the *classroom walk-through* form- Observational notes completed by Nicole, Erin and Steve and returned to teachers. To be used for teacher feedback, not for evaluative purposes.
- TFA accounts for 1/3 of total staff. New to teaching are receiving support from TFA and other teachers (Collegial Teaching model)
- Don - would like to have DV explain via the media how we did so well on the English/Language arts section on the CST's. Reasons provided by Erin and Nicole are: Job-alike morning sessions among teachers, teachers heavy emphasis on writing. Need to develop key discussion points to focus on.

8. **Design Symposium**

- Will take place Oct 14th and 15th
- Day 1 visiting different companies that have a design component (two visits). Morning visit to a job site, lunch at park then on to 2nd location.
- Day 2 Design brief: How to design a bag to make it easier to use on bikes. Students will work through the design process.
- Supporters are : Getty, Gensler, Belkin, Otis, Northrop

9. **Sports and Arts Program**

- Adidas will contribute \$10,000 toward sports equipment
- Considering all options - fall, winter and spring programs (4th category could include sports like fencing and lacrosse)



- Joining CIF is cost effective and helps in getting our program started. Next step: Attend the Coaches meeting.
- Athletics will most likely be user pay
- Concerns: Lack of Facilities, DV focus has never been on sports, some of our kids are already playing for other schools - they may be affected by our decision to join CIF. Work with Nicole and Steve on next steps.
- Arts program is in the works : offering step and vocal music - user pay

10. Da Vinci Flex Pilot Version 5.0 (Matt)

- No pilot this year.
- We are continuing to look at our options. It is a great opportunity for DV to serve students in a blended way- on campus and online.
- First priority is our current program.
- Flex may be able to help us get our k-8 program up.

11. Advisory Council (Nicole)

- Don would like to see residents and parents on council.
- What is the council's role? Don will come to first meeting to give an overview

Closed session (11:15am-11:30am)

Action Items Unanimously Approved

K12 Virtual Schools cost of \$4,032.00

Edu Serve Consultant Agreement for Power School support at \$95/hr, not to exceed \$1,500

Helena Tselos Consultant Agreement for Calpads support at \$30/hr, not to exceed \$2,000

Upcoming Events

Next Board meeting will be in October 2010, schedule tba.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Rigor, Math and Academic Excellence Program