



WUSD-DV Town Hall Meeting

April 15, 2015



“Da Vinci Schools are among the very finest I’ve seen.”

*-- Dr. David Brown, Former Executive Director
Western Association of Schools & Colleges --*

“Da Vinci Schools should be a model for other public schools in the state.”

-- Former CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell --

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Finances, the Decision Making Process, and Timeline of Communication
3. Operating Logistics
4. Da Vinci Schools – Vision, Results, Curriculum, Special Needs Children, Extracurricular Activities
5. Enrollment & Transfers Out
6. Student and Parent Testimonials
7. Q&A and Public Comments

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Roger Banuelos
Board President - WUSD



Chet Pipkin
Board President-DV

Decision making about the charters

- Why charter? Dependent vs. independent
- WSD reserved the right to “adopt” DV Design as the “seed” for a comprehensive Wiseburn High School (2009)
- Negotiations with surrounding school districts and legislation to allow Wiseburn Unification vote to proceed (2012 and 2013)
- DV received a prestigious NextGen (Gates Foundation) grant to open DV Communications (May 2012)
- Escrow closed on 201 N. Douglas (April 2013)
- The success of Da Vinci Design & Science (June 2013)
- DV Communications opened (Fall 2013)
- Unification vote (Nov. 2013)
- DV Communications charter approved (May 2014)
- Benefits of charters, housing charters with non-charter model appeared problematic

Finances, Decision Making and Communication

- Communication with the Wiseburn Community about the plan to go all charter
 - Stakeholder committee meetings with David Stephen and Gensler to plan for new site, focus on “Best of Both Worlds” in three small learning communities (Feb 2013)
 - Superintendent’s letter to the Wiseburn Community (April 2013)
 - Open House at 201 Douglas (Dec 7, 2013)
 - HOA Meetings in Wiseburn, HollyGlen, Del Aire and South Bay 360 (Jan, Feb and May 2014)
 - Updates given on the progress of DVC to the Wiseburn and DV Boards (Jan-Feb 2014)
 - Open letter to E. Kreiswirth that was made available to all HOAs through NextDoor (October 2014)
 - SchoolNews articles

Finances, Decision Making and Communication

- 2009 estimates for cost of land and building (\$110-115M)
- Extensive polling of Wiseburn Community to determine tolerance level for additional tax (\$87M)
- Different scenarios for land costs depending on acreage: 5 acres, 8 acres, 10 acres, and 12-15 acres
- The CDE recommendation for a high school site is 40 acres



Finances, Decision Making and Communication

- Cost of 201 N. Douglas site (13.7 acres & 4 story building was \$46M)
- Quest for state matching funds
 - We have not done a single construction project in Wiseburn without State Matching Funds
 - State matching funds were conservatively expected to be \$30M
 - We had no intention of building a less than adequate HS facility for the community
- Da Vinci received \$57.2M through Charter School Facilities Program
- Initial plan was for 75% to be raised through local bonds and 25% through state matching funds
- Current funding mix is 63% local bonds / 37% charter matching funds

Finances, Decision Making and Communication

- Shortfall/funding gap was more a time gap than a money gap, but with escalating construction costs, time is money
 - The last State School Construction Bond was in 2006 and that money was exhausted in 2013, except for a small pot of Charter School Facility money
 - The shortfall/funding gap became apparent when Gov. Brown rejected a school construction bond for the Nov 2014 ballot
- Other factors
 - CEQA/Methane Mitigation - \$1M
 - CEQA/Litigation Avoidance – the pool settlement - \$6M
- Various options considered to resolve shortfall

Finances, Decision Making and Communication

- Communication with the Wiseburn Community about the budget shortfall
 - HOA Meetings
 - Bond Oversight Committees
 - Open letter to E. Kreiswirth in Oct 2014 that was made available through NextDoor and all HOAs



Operating Logistics

- According to the proposed MOU, there would be a minimum of three DV Board members that would be Wiseburn residents, two of which would come from the WUSD Board of Trustees
- Da Vinci Schools are an independent Charter Management Organization set up as a non-profit 501 (c)(3)
- Under the proposed MOU, DV would select new members that would be confirmed or denied by WUSD
- Inter-district transfers out of WUSD are, and have always been, approved through the Wiseburn Superintendent's Office

Operating Logistics

- DV schools are independent and accountable to WUSD, State of California, students and families
- Financial, legal oversight and facilities provided by WUSD
- Curriculum articulation with WUSD
- Each Da Vinci site tailors academic program to serve the needs of its students (just as Wiseburn school sites do)
- New formula now provides the same funding to charter schools and traditional public schools – ADA (per capita) allocations based on grade level and other factors
- As a 501(c)3, Da Vinci is eligible for additional private funding, grants and contributions

Vision Statement

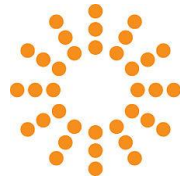
Da Vinci students will graduate as collaborative, informed, resourceful and reflective individuals who are college-ready, career-prepared, and community-minded.

- Da Vinci offers most all of the programs and services of a traditional comprehensive high school
- A traditional high school leaves many kids behind and does not prepare students for high-skill, high-wage careers
- Da Vinci's success as an innovator and national leader in career pathways is recognized across the globe

The Education to Employment Crisis

- 3 million unfilled jobs across the country because applicants don't have the skills employers need
(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/NY Times)
- 41% of college graduates from the past two years are underemployed or unemployed (Source: Accenture)
- 91% of low-income U.S. students who enroll in college don't graduate (Source: KIPP College Completion Report)
- By 2025, California will have a workforce shortage of 1 million college graduates (Source: America's Edge report)
- \$35,200 per graduate in college-related debt
(Source: CNN Money 2013)

Da Vinci Partners & Supporters (partial list)



Making an Impact Across the Globe

Visitors from 6 continents have come to study DV best practices



Results

- High School Daily Attendance Rate – 96%
- Senior Matriculation Rate – 98%
- A-G Completion Rates – 98%
- College Acceptances
- Student, Parent and Teacher Satisfaction Surveys



Delivering on the College & Career Promise

	Da Vinci	LAUSD	Centinela	CA
Fulfilled “a-g” requirements for admission to UC/CSU	98%	15%	21-48%	34%

A-G Completion Rates of Neighboring Districts

- Da Vinci Schools – 98%**
- Manhattan Beach – 89%
- El Segundo – 87%
- Torrance – 42-62%
- Centinela Valley – 21-48%
- Redondo Beach – 52%
- LAUSD – 15%

SOURCE: School Accountability Report Cards



College Acceptances (partial list)

Every UC and CSU

Harvard

Stanford

Yale

Columbia

MIT

Dartmouth

Brown

USC

NYU

Boston University

Cal Poly... and many more!



Credentials and Teacher Quality

- Accreditation – DVD and DVS are fully accredited for the longest possible period (6 years)
- Credentials needed to teach at DV same as WUSD
- Average teacher age = 33; years of experience = 6
- Rigorous hiring process
- Compensation is commensurate with WUSD and surrounding districts, longer school year due to 19-23 days of professional development
- Non-financial incentives for working at DV
 - High degree of decision-making, high satisfaction, freedom to innovate
- Non-union vs. union considerations

Teaching Philosophy

- Small and personalized
- Every student is know, seen and valued
- College-ready, career-prepared, community-minded
- A college preparatory curriculum for the 21st century: rigorous, well-rounded, with an emphasis on real-world learning
- Depth over breadth
- Overarching goal is to get all students to and through college and into meaningful careers offering competitive salaries
- Aligned to workplace skills and competencies

Project Based Learning

- PBL is a “learn by doing” curriculum model that integrates core subjects with real-life problems to be solved
- Higher student interest, engagement and retention
- PBL being done in WUSD and across the country for decades though not called PBL
- 21st century skills (critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, communication) used in workplaces to achieve company goals
- Many prestigious universities use PBL: Stanford, Cal Poly, UC Berkeley, MIT, Boston University, and more
- Harder on teachers to execute than lecturing, but far more effective

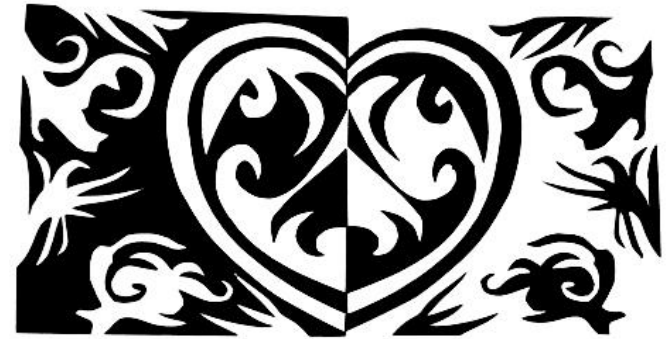
4-Year Course Sequence – Da Vinci Schools

9th Grade

English 9
Composition
Physics
Math
Foreign Language
Pathways
Seminar 1
Seminar 2

10th Grade

English 10
World History
Chemistry
Math
Foreign Language
Pathways
Seminar 1
Seminar 2



11th Grade

English 11
US History
Biology
Math
Foreign Language
Pathways
Seminar 1
Seminar 2

12th Grade

English 12
**Government/
Economics**
**Anatomy/Psychology
or Advanced Physics**
Math
Pathways
Seminar 1
Seminar 2



Seminars – Da Vinci Schools (partial list)

A place where students find & explore their passions

PLTW Aerospace Engineering
Architecture & Design (Art Center)

Robotics

Flight School

Vehicle Design

Creative Writing

Youth & Government

Work Experience

Yearbook

Computer Programming

Mock Trial

Leadership

Book Club

Sewing

Archery

Support Classes

Dance Team

Drama

Yoga

CrossFit

Rock Climbing

Running/Marathon



Mastery Based Grading

- MBG is a grading system tied to a belief system that students learn mastery of concepts (Essential Skills) at different rates
- Students are graded on their mastery of concepts rather than just calculating an average based on the total number of points they earn in a semester
- Traditional grading uses an uncertain mix of assessment, achievement, effort and behavior to determine final grade
- Many high schools, charter and non-charter, are moving to MBG
- Final letter grades (A,B,C, Incomplete and F) are used for report cards at all three DV high schools

Special Needs Children

- Currently serving 111 students with IEPs at the high schools (9.6% of population)
- DV serves students with a wide range of learning styles and needs, “push in” model
- Resource specialists have a caseload of about 18 students (state mandated limit is 28:1)
- 98% of IEP students are diploma bound
- 80% of graduating seniors with IEPs have been accepted to 2-year or 4-year colleges
- Other supports and interventions (support classes, office hours, etc.)

Extracurriculars

- Current CIF offerings
- Current music/arts offerings
- Seminars
- Future sports and VAPA offerings
- Aquatics Center
 - Access to the pool during school and non-school hours
 - Do Wiseburn residents have the same access as El Segundo residents?
 - Maintaining the pool (Who pays? Who's responsible?)



How do I know which DV school is right for my child?

- No school is 100% right for every student
- Da Vinci Schools are right for at least 95% of students
- DV offers most all of the programs and services of a traditional comprehensive high school.
- 85% of DV schools' core curriculum is the same whether you're at DVC, DVD or DVS
- DV offers the same core curriculum as Mira Costa, El Segundo, and other local schools
- More opportunities for students to explore their interests and passions through pathway classes and seminars

Enrollment and Transfers

- Wiseburn residents receive guaranteed enrollment at DV high schools as Wiseburn's "home" high schools
- Residents receive an enrollment priority at DVIA
- An application is used so we can hold your spot
- This year, enrollment packets were mailed to residents the first week of March before the lottery
- Late applicants may not get their first choice of school
- Transfers out of the district have always been (and will continue to be) handled by WUSD
- The Superintendent will sign an exit form for any family that does not wish to attend the District's schools

Q&A and Public Comments

Questions?



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District**

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