

DaVinci Academy of the Sciences and Arts
Board of Directors
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
2033 Grant Avenue Ogden, Utah 84401
801.409.0700
davinciacademy.org

Agenda/Minutes

Meeting Name: DASA Governing Board Meeting
Time keeper: Terryl Miller
Scribe: Terryl Miller – Secretary
Facilitator: Paula Dugan – President
Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2008
Time: 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM (Open Session)
Location: 2033 Grant Avenue, Ogden, UT 84401

Invitees/Attendees * in attendance, # absent, & excused (may call in)

*	Paula Dugan, (PD)	#	Iain Hueton (IH)
*	Eric Amsel (EA)	*	Mark DeCaria (MD)
*	Terryl Miller (TM)	*	Adam Johnston (AJ)
*	Carl Porter (CP)	#	Eric Matheson (EM)
*	Steve Reaves (SR)		

Meeting Ground Rules

- ⌚ Be on Time
- ☺ Everyone is equal
- ⊗ One Conversation at a time
- ☺ Respect the views of others
- ☺ Keep the discussion relevant

Agenda

Item No.	Subject	Presenter	Time
1.	Quorum Call and Welcome of Guests, Approval of Minutes from the Last Board Meeting	Paula Dugan	2 Min
2.	Introduction and Agenda Review	Terryl Miller	3 Min
3.	Student Government Report	Student Government	15 Min
4.	PTSO Report	PTSO Presidency	5 Min
5.	Technology Report	Garen Kidd	5 Min
6.	Ombudsman	Maria Schwarz	__ Min

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Item No.	Subject	Presenter	Time
7.	Financial Report Approval of Financial Policy & Procedure Updates Finance Briefing on New Requisition Forms and Banks 2008-2009 Budget Approval	Debbie Stark	25 Min
8.	Director Report Approval of faculty and staff for 2008-2009 SY Proposal for School Uniforms	Jessie Kidd	30 Min
9.	Open Public Comment		30 Min Max
10.	Open Student Comment		30 Min Max
11.	President's Report Discussion and vote on School Uniforms	Paula Dugan	30 Min
12.	Old Business – Action Items	Terryl Miller	5 Min
13.	New Business Committee Reports	Each Board Member	30 Min
14.	Adjournment from board meeting		

Minutes

Agenda Item No.	Main Points, Conclusions/Discussions, Decisions, Next Steps
1 and 2	Quorum is called at 5:32. Adam moves to approve the minutes and Mark seconds it after changing “ear” to “wear” on page 3 and after putting Jen Thompson in Open Public Comment instead of Open Student Comment. All were in favor, none were opposed. The agenda was introduced and reviewed.
3	Student Government Report: Tiffany Vlahos and David Amsel: David reports the election results for the 2008-2009 school year. They are as follows: Student Body President is Stirling Miller, Vice President is Michael Farr, Senior Senators are Derek Dugan and Misty Anderson, Junior Senators are Jordan Jensen and Jeremy Graves and Sophomore Senator is David Taylor. They reported that there will be a DaVinci night at MOPA in their library this Tuesday from 6 to 7. The board is welcome to come if they wish. The BBQ for winning penny wars is next Wednesday for the Juniors, who won. David thanked the students for coming to voice their opinions on the matter of a dress code. Stirling Miller then got up and spoke to the Petition Committee Issue. The student constitution says there can be petitions. This was passed through the student government, then the executive director, the student government advisor, and the staff. Paula asked to have a copy of the student

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	<p>constitution forwarded to the board. She also asked Terryl to include a copy of the board meeting minutes that the student constitution was voted on.</p> <p>David Amsel then petitioned the board to be allowed to sit on the board as the constitution states. The board was polled and everyone said yes, that they had no problems if he sat on the board, but with the understanding that he had no vote.</p> <p>David then asked if he could summarize the issue of uniforms: The students do not feel that uniforms will fix respect issues.</p> <p>Mark D: A discussion was then held with regard to respect issues. He asked if it was the feeling that we have a problem; possibly between the students and the faculty?</p> <p>David replied that yes, there is room for improvement on respect.</p> <p>Mark D: Do you feel the students are fully informed of the reason why Mrs. Kidd wants to implement a uniform policy?</p> <p>David: No, I do not think we were informed, the students were blind sided.</p> <p>Steve: How did you ask the students for their opinions and feedback?</p> <p>David: We did a survey of 180 students.</p>
4	<p><u>PTSO Report:</u> Elaine McEvoy, Co-President: She is here to present an update on the money spent by the PTSO for the school. They helped with the following: English Qwest with Mrs. Taylor, Music for Elaine Witte; the stage for Megan Crivello; PT conference lunch and Chad Clark, software; and teacher appreciation week. They also purchased 6 picnic tables for the grassy common area. At their next meeting they will be voting on Secretary and Vice President for next year.</p> <p>Elaine then stated that she had sent a mass e-mail out to parents on the uniform issue. She received 11 replies. 4 were for and 7 were against. Paula asked her to summarize their comments. Elaine then went on to state the following: they would like to possibly color code as opposed to a rigid uniform code. Paula asked if any economic issues were brought up and Elaine replied that no economic issues were brought up. Paula asked how the parents feel, can Elaine please summarize how the parents are feeling.</p> <p>Elaine: I don't feel like I can since I only received 11 responses.</p> <p>Paula: Then asked if there was anything that the PTSO needed the boards help with, any event?</p> <p>Elaine did mention not to remember the ice cream social in the summer.</p>
5	No technology report.
6	No ombudsman report.
7	<p><u>Financial Report:</u> Debbie Stark: She introduced the amendment to the financial policy. Take out vote on page 5 and she referred to other minor changes in the policy in relation to the division of duties of business manager, etc. Eric A. then assured the board that the Financial Committee scrutinized the changes and Paula stated that many of these were in response to audits. Checks and balances were changed and tightened up, there is more transparency to the board, it is a more efficient system. There was a question about the letters and thank yous for people or businesses donating. Anonymous donators will still be acknowledged, just not officially by the board in public, but privately with a thank you letter. A short discussion was had and then Adam moved to accept this addendum. Terryl seconded it. All were in favor, none were opposed.</p> <p>She also talked about the new requisitions that will serve as a PO and a check request, this has already been put in place and the staff and faculty seem to really like this process.</p> <p>Due to FDIC regulations in regards to how much money in a bank account can be insured upon, we are going to be moving some of the money out of DaVinci's one account and spreading it between two or three.</p>

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	<p>Discussion on the budget was then had: Paula talked to the process the committee went through. It was based on 300 students, and she asked everyone to refer to the budget form. Eric A. then reassured the board this came out of a meeting strategic planning and financial committee. A working document will be presented to the board to be reviewed. Paula then went on to discuss that this was an ongoing process for the strategic plan. It will be blended with accreditation to work on the strategic plan. We will simplify and put a straw man plan together. The committee will summarize and have it ready before next fall for the State of DaVinci. We want to actively encourage students, teachers and community members to join this committee. We are working to a 5-year plan with the budget incorporated in it. Mark asked if we need to have a separate account for interest as he did not see that on the budget. Debbie replied that yes, there are several accounts that need to be added and that is one of them. Paula then asked if there any more questions. She also stated that this is a living document so as we find things that need to be changed, we will do so. Mark motioned to approve this budget as a living document, Adam seconded it. All approved, none were opposed.</p>
8	<p><u>Director's Report:</u> Jessie Kidd: Staff proposal: She has put together an organizational chart. She is working on job descriptions. They are also instituting advisory once a week next year. The staff is as follows: Freshman Team: Brenda Raccuia is team leader, she teaches Life Science; Megan Crivello teaches Theater; Bridget McFall who is SPEC ED Director; a new lower level math teacher; and a new geography teacher. Sophomore Team: Brooke Krim is team leader, she teaches Language Arts and World Civ; Halee Rogers, Visual Arts, Art History and Student Counsel; Maggie Hodgson, Life Science and EYE; Greg Compton, Spanish; and Tatiana Nikolaev, Math, Russian and Engineering. Junior Team: Chad Clark is team leader, he teaches Health and PE; David Stohel, Math and CE/AP; Marvin Baker, SPED, ASL, Japanese; Jen Thompson, English, History and PBL; Celia Larson, History and Student Government. Senior Team: Adam Jones is team leader, he teaches Philosophy and English; Elaine Witte, music; Michael Burton, Science; Deanna Froerer, Financial Lit; Drew Johnson, Counselor; Carolyn Taylor, Language Arts and Library. The rest of the staff is as follows: Nora Brent, Office Manager; Megan Law, Attendance Secretary; Kelly Freeze, Director of Student Services; Anthony Gonzales, Custodian; New Administrative Assistant TBA; New Registrar TBA, New Assistant Director TBA. Steve motions to accept the staff. Carl seconds this. All in favor none were opposed. <u>Proposal for Uniforms – new dress code:</u> Mrs. Kidd presents to the board a new Dress Code Policy based on board members, students, parents, and teachers feed back that will best fit the school. Based on this feedback, she proposed this policy as a more strict dress code. She asks that we accept and bring this in to being. She passionately talked to the fact that we need to take education to the next level. She stated that she is not asking to change everything, we have come a long way, but lets prepare for the future, lets dress for success. She then read the proposed dress code policy to the board. Please find it attached. Paula then asked Jessie if there was anything else she wanted to add. Jessie replied No. Paula asked Jessie if we got enough help for the Senior Projects and Jessie replied that Jen hasn't asked for more but that she knows she needs it. Paula then explained to the rest of the board that all of our seniors are required to a senior project. She would like someone to help mentor some of these students. If the board knows of any please have them contact Jen Thompson as soon as possible.</p>

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	<p>Paula then asked if we had heard from Gold’s Gym about a contract? Jessie replied no. Paula then replied that she and Iain would have to go to Gold’s Gym and talk to them.</p> <p>Paula then asked where we stand on current enrollment for the fall.</p> <p>Jessie replied that she has done interviews for the last three weeks. Over 60 new packets were given. They are halfway there.</p> <p>Paula: We need to recruit and we may need to rethink our advertising strategy.</p>
	<u>BIO BREAK for 2 minutes</u>
9 and 10	<p><u>Open Student and Public Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Stirling Miller:</u> He is here as a student not as student government. He states: “DaVinci sinks or floats without students. Please think about the students. I don’t think that a uniform would make students think better about school, or change anything.</p> <p><u>Maria Schwarz:</u> I am against uniforms because of PE and sweating. I also feel that I didn’t know about it, I felt blind sided.</p> <p><u>Sam Schwarz:</u> I have 2 issues, I feel that dress codes go against our vision and they do not allow you to be an individual.</p> <p><u>Michael Farr, VP for next year:</u> I would reconsider coming back if uniforms are instituted. There needs to be a balance of what you will gain over how many students will leave. Referred to Boyle’s Law and the fact that if you put pressure on it, it will press back. Please carefully consider and dispose of this policy.</p> <p><u>Derek Freeze:</u> We really need to stay the way we are, to encourage us to be the best we can. His friends from MOPA were planning to come here and now they might not if there are uniforms.</p> <p><u>Scott and Carolyn Taylor:</u> 2 kids do uniform, they hate it. Dress code versus uniform, when you script it, it is more uniform, you risk driving students away. We have amazing kids who conform in wonderful ways and they also don’t conform. Our student culture is great. It also sucks to give uniforms for Christmas presents. Carolyn then stated that as a parent she is against it, as a teacher she would like to at least see a loosening up of this proposal.</p> <p><u>Dalton Greenwood & RJ:</u> They brought a petition to the board against uniforms. 103 signatures are on the petition. Many students and teachers feel it will hurt DaVinci. We can’t express our individuality with uniforms. Lots of kids say they will not re-enroll if uniforms are put in place. They feel it will hurt the school. There are 2 types of people, people who won’t change with uniforms and those who do homework and turn it in and those that won’t.</p> <p><u>Judy ?:</u> She is against uniforms. She feels the problem is in enforcing the current dress code and the standards on uniformity change per teacher, per administrator and by the end of the year. I think if you stick with the rules you have and enforce them that would be best.</p> <p><u>David Taylor:</u> We have amazing kids here. Uniforms don’t work with these types of people. We would be hurting the future of DaVinci. It is restricting what the school is. Teachers should more accurately and precisely enforce the dress code.</p> <p><u>Cary Hartman:</u> I believe nonconforming students thrive here. No uniforms. You will lose your competitive edge even if you go to a stricter dress code. The spice in life is the sparkles and stripes and color. Use large, awful shirts instead without taking away freedoms.</p> <p><u>David Stohel:</u> Unity is painful. We don’t have boundaries. We have students of every kind, clothes don’t match. I love the school dress code now. I don’t know that uniforms wil make that better. Any changes that increase safety I am all for. Teachers should also be held to the same standard.</p> <p><u>Harry Ardis:</u> No.</p> <p><u>James McEvoy:</u> I don’t think we conform. Tacher and faculty need to step up to enforce what we</p>

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	<p>have now.</p> <p><u>Mark Decaria</u> asked if we can hear from those in favor of the dress code? There were none present.</p>
11	<p><u>President's Report:</u> A discussion was then had amongst the board on the dress code issue:</p> <p>Mark: I am most concerned about the following: Do we have a lot of violence, bullies, picking on people for dressing differently? Jessie replied No. Mark then asked if we scare students away, do we run the risk of having no DaVinci? Jessie replied: We wanted uniqueness, individualism, we are struggling with recruitment, we aren't the students bringing their friends. The community doesn't even know we are yet.</p> <p>Mark then stated that there is an impression that this is more of an arts school, especially from the students. Are we kicking ourselves in the pants by putting a dress code in place and taking away and changing the perception of an arts school? Jessie: Most of the students will tell you that their parents brought them here.</p> <p>Carl did not have any questions.</p> <p>Adam: Looking at the old dress code there is some subjective wording in it. Is it about enforcement?</p> <p>Jessie: It is not about enforcement. It is attitude. Teachers step out of their classroom and don't enforce it because they don't want to be involved. Teachers don't feel it is their job to be a police man. Students who are learning are not misbehaving.</p> <p>Eric A: Are you surprised by the reaction of the students, teachers and parents?</p> <p>Jessie: No, disappointed that the word didn't get out better. Student's are supposed to like these kinds of things, they are students.</p> <p>Eric A: They also didn't like Saturday school. Your listening and responding made that better.</p> <p>Jessie: We had a Director's forum on Saturday school and we had more response after that meeting. They saw the vision. These are developmental strategies to help kids. There has been a lack of communication with this issue.</p> <p>Eric A: Have you said something they haven't heard before with this policy?</p> <p>Jessie: The teacher's dress code.</p> <p>Eric A: I mean, why you proposed this? Do they understand what is at stake. Can you say in a sentence what they can't say?</p> <p>Jessie: I see the future of DaVinci.</p> <p>Eric A: Why would new policy be embraced by teachers more than the old? There is more to police and why would it change?</p> <p>Jessie: There is more onus on the student to come prepared, which side of the fence we are on will be clearer. Students say it is enforcement of teachers. We want utopia, we want the kids to be proud of their school. The number one advertising is our students.</p> <p>Steve: This is not just over dress, cel phones and conduct. If we give you what you want will it put it in the right direction?</p> <p>Jessie: I feel it is a professional step forward, a fundamental look for the future, and the betterment of the perception of the community.</p> <p>Steve: This puts you in the right starting gate then for a 5 and 10 year plan. I went and talked to my kids and I talked to them separately. They both said no, they didn't want uniforms. Kids don't want to be restricted. The dress code in a business is set by the boss, not by the employees. I think what Mrs. Kidd is asking for is reasonable. She is running the school. If we don't pass this will the kids feel they have more power than the director. Later, if something in the policy is not working, we can readdress it then.</p> <p>Terry: I am really on the fence. I have elementary school children who wear uniforms and I love</p>

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	<p>it as a parent. I am a business owner and properly dressed people can attract customers. I feel we are doing a disservice to our students if we don't ask more of them. I have seen what some students wear and I am scared. I don't have a problem with a uniform. Jessie does an amazing job. This is a hard proposal. I'm the parent though and I decide where my students go. We may lose some students but we could possibly gain more. I want school focused on education. It makes me feel like you students don't respect yourselves and I am offended that you don't respect this school when you dress sometimes. This is not like any other school. It has changed in the last four years and it is for the better. You will move from here to college to a career and you will have to follow a standard then. You can do it now and start preparing now. I would like to see Khaki added to the colors. She then read a mother's opinion she got online about dress codes. Mainly it stated that it made the students find other appropriate ways to express themselves. School is a kids first job.</p> <p>Paula: School is a job. The dress code aside, this is more about attitude and community. Studies show there is a different level of commitment with a dress code. It is sometimes hard to find shirts without logs though. The main thing is that this is not the student's decision, it is our decision as a board and as administration and staff. I would like to ask if you would be willing to form a committee of parents, students, teachers, etc. to read the policy and make suggestions to meet your needs.</p> <p>Jessie: That is workable based on this proposal, I would entertain their comments and work on a compromise that best benefits the students and DaVinci.</p> <p>Eric A: If this committee fails then the board would need to see if someone is trying to scuttle the process, if we find that to be the case, then we as a board would probably have to pass this dress code as is.</p> <p>Mark: I agree input is great from students, parents, teachers, and board members.</p> <p>Paula asked all the board to commit to coming back in two weeks to meet again. She then tasked Jessie to bring back a revised completed policy in two weeks, on May 21st for the board to vote on.</p> <p>Adam then thanked Jessie for her passion.</p> <p>Paula then stated that those who wanted to be involved in nominating DaVinci for the Charter School of the year should meet at the school on Friday for lunch. We also need to brainstorm on advertising and help come up with a marketing strategy.</p> <p>Paula then reminded the board that May 28th at 6:30 is graduation. She asked the board to please plan on attending.</p>
12	<u>No old business.</u>
13	<p><u>New Business:</u> Curriculum Committee: We are keeping Junior Seminar 1 semester and Senior Capstone 1 semester and 1 semester of philosophy. We will have this in place in the fall with the current staff we have. We have another meeting tomorrow at 3:15. Paula asked if internship would be a part of this. Jessie replied that the counseling office would be working on internships. Adam will be helping put together a lecture series on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except for June, July August or December. The speakers will be scientists, artists, Utah Poet Laureate, etc. The last lecture will be a teacher nominated by the students. It will be sort of a "here is all you need to hear from me that I haven't been able to tell you." Jessie also stated that we will have refreshments at this.</p> <p>Mark stated that he would like to be on the Strategic Planning Committee.</p> <p>Paula stated that she will send the committee structure to Steve to have him look over and see which he would like to be on. Also, she would like to have an off-site board planning session.</p>

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	She will get back to everyone on a day and time.
14	Terryl motioned to close the meeting and Steve seconded it. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Action Items

Item No.	Open Date	Description	Assigned To	Target Date	Date Closed
AI-1					
AI-2					
AI-3					
AI-4					
AI-5					

Decision Log

Date	Decision/Description	Pass/Failed

Next Meeting Agenda Topics

Item No.	Subject	Presenter	Time
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

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- a) Posting written notice at the principal office, or at the building where the meeting is to be held;

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b) Providing notice to the Standard Examiner, the newspaper with general circulation within the geographic jurisdiction of the public body, or to a local media correspondent.

c) Providing notice on the web site for DaVinci Academy, when operational.

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