

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

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**Agenda/Minutes**

**Meeting Name:** DASA Governing Board Meeting  
**Time keeper:** Terryl Miller  
**Scribe:** Terryl Miller – Secretary  
**Facilitator:** Paula Dugan – President  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008  
**Time:** 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (Open Session)  
7:30 PM to 8:00 PM (Closed 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
7.	Open Public Comment		30 Min Max

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Item No.	Subject	Presenter	Time
8.	Open Student Comment		30 Min Max
9.	Director Report Proposal for Dress Code	Jessie Kidd	15 Min
10.	President's Report Discussion and vote on Dress Code	Paula Dugan	15 Min
11.	Old Business – Action Items	Terryl Miller	5 Min
12.	New Business Committee Reports	Each Board Member	30 Min
13.	Adjournment from open board meeting to closed		
14.	Closed Session	Paula Dugan	30 Min

**Minutes**

Agenda Item No.	Main Points, Conclusions/Discussions, Decisions, Next Steps
1	Quorum called at 5:35. No minutes to be approved. They will both be approved at next meeting.
2	Agenda review done.
3	<b><u>Student Government Report:</u></b> The Jr BBQ for penny wars went well.
4	No PTSO Report
5	No Technology Report.
6	No ombudsman Report.
7	No open public comment.
8	<p><b><u>Open Student Comment:</u></b></p> <p><u>Chalisa Gee:</u> She is concerned about uniforms. I don't feel like we are addressing the current policy and what's inside of you doesn't change with what you are wearing. I don't like the idea at all. I always have wanted to express myself with my clothes.</p> <p><u>David Amsel:</u> I appreciate Mrs. Kidd, she loves the school and is doing the best for the school. I don't think uniforms is the right method to fix it. I think we need the right people to come here. Feels like it will be the same with or without uniforms. Assistant Director is a good idea.</p> <p><u>Tiffany Vlahos:</u> There is lots of negativity towards uniforms. Those that leave will leave those who have to be here. I learned to get to know the people underneath the clothes. I am worried that uniforms will take that away.</p> <p><u>Jaiden Heime:</u> I am totally against uniforms. I don't wear provocative clothing, but I could wear worse. A vice principal will be here next year, but the dress code is not being enforced now and I don't know how it will get better next year. 90% of the school (that is my guess) that follow the dress code and the 10% who don't aren't being punished.</p>

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	<p><u>Kevin Massey</u>: I don't want uniforms or a dress code. I went back to Ben Lomond last year but Ben Lomond wasn't for me. It is a totally different environment, very friendly, here at DaVinci. I don't want it to change. I think the balance may shift and will not determine your outlook. I don't want to see it changed.</p> <p><u>Stirling Miller</u>: I've listened to my fellow students and adults and I love the unity in the school. I was part of this committee process. I support the compromise, it makes sense, we are here because we want to learn, maybe we haven't learned that yet.</p> <p>Paula: I want you to know that every time you come before the board to make a comment I want you to know that we hear you and that your opinion matters. We find our students quite articulate and appreciate them expressing their opinions.</p>
9 and 10	<p><b>Director's Report and President's Report:</b> We started looking at this dress code issue back in March. I asked for feedback and opinions from students, teachers, parents and for input school wide. I appreciate the board and their process. The dress code committee met twice and Celia Larson headed that committee. I met with a counsel of representatives of that committee and we finalized a compromise. I am proposing it with the backing of that committee.</p> <p>Paula: What has changed?</p> <p>Jessie: Logos can be 1" in size. Please refer to the complete policy.</p> <p>Paula: Who was involved in the committees.</p> <p>Jessie: Parents, students and teachers were there.</p> <p>Paula: Did they all buy in or just some?</p> <p>Jessie: 2 parent, 2 student, 2 teacher representatives and Celia met with me today.</p> <p>Paula: Did they represent the entire group and not their personal opinion?</p> <p>Jessie: Yes they did.</p> <p>Paula: Would they be willing to stand up and admit they were on it? I want to make sure that all the stake holders had a chance to speak.</p> <p>Jessie: Most came away with an appreciation of the process. They had an additional opportunity to discuss what they wanted.</p> <p>Paula: Definitions and perceptions are difficult. I see this as a strict dress code, not a uniform.</p> <p>Jessie: The ones who have been willing to speak have referred to it as a dress code.</p> <p>Paula: We have moved away from uniforms then.</p> <p>Jessie: I appreciate the opportunity for this process.</p> <p>Paula: Jessie has asked us to approve this, do I have a motion?</p> <p>Eric M moved to accept this proposal. Steve seconded it.</p> <p>Discussion: Eric M: I think the use of the term uniform is wrong. This is like we used to have. I see a perspective you may not see: I meet with a lot of foreign business men. Americans stand out because of their sloppy dress and lack of discipline in my opinion. I support this. In Europe kids where uniforms and education is important.</p> <p>Carl: Dress code is not going to change feelings. Creativity can rise above it. How will we know if it is working? How do we measure the outcome to see if this will do what we want it to do? I am still considering my vote and I am still a little perplexed.</p> <p>Adam: Define collar?</p> <p>Jessie: Collar is a collar, hoodie does not count.</p> <p>Adam: Sentence of "faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether the attire is appropriate." I am not so sure about that.</p> <p>Jessie: This could be huge. This leaves it open to interpretation, so we want to have everyone on the same page.</p> <p>Adam: Will teachers be trained in what is acceptable and what is not?</p>

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	<p>Jessie: Dress code training will be included with the training in the fall for a more consistent enforcement.</p> <p>Adam: I don't think a dress code can change. I talked to a colleague, she does research and her feelings are that she absolutely despises the idea of uniforms. I do see great compromise, but are we distracting the educational process by focusing on this?</p> <p>Mark: Was sagging pants left out on purpose?</p> <p>Jessie: It's there.</p> <p>Mark: It is there, okay. Assuming the board adopts this, I am concerned about the public feeling in the school. Students feel like they are equals to their teachers and I have been extremely pleased with their ability to reason. Will this leave the kids angry so it aborts this process? There is a lack of discipline in society today and so much of it is because everyone feels they need their outward expression to identify individuality. I am very concerned about the whole "look at me for what I am wearing" not for "hey look at me for what I have done" attitude of today. I think this policy is intended to diminish the hey, look at me for what I am wearing to the hey, look at me for what I have done.</p> <p>Eric A: I echo David's comments. I feel this is coming from a good place. Whatever you propose students will complain, but I have such deep reservations about this. I feel that school atmosphere may suffer and can we promote social and moral reasoning with this. If we do pass it and it is not received well, we will be in meetings galore for people to come to the board to complain. I would like to do more because it is not clear that we have buy in. I think people are not feeling they have had enough buy in. If I was sure everyone felt they had a buy in I might be able to vote.</p> <p>Steve: We hired Jessie to run the school. I don't like everything, I would be more restrictive than this. If we can change this on paper, I am concerned about how you are going to change it with your students and staff and if we give this to you, will it help them enforce it?</p> <p>Jessie: There will be more teacher training, and professional development. There is an additional administrative piece to help as well.</p> <p>Eric A: I think there is a lack of knowledge, maybe defiance from teachers, and a level of frustration that they knew the policy but they just couldn't make it a priority. It still sounds like a question of buy in.</p> <p>Jessie: This is not a solution to every problem at the school. This is an onus on the students, giving teachers less time to police because students have onus on themselves. I see enrollment down, I see student outcomes lower here. I do not think the greater Ogden Community knows who we are. I ant them to look the part. If a dress code compromise, with people who have come to be involved, then so be it. I want the students to be willing to give up "look at me" and state that I have come to learn. They need to dress for success and take responsibility for themselves. We are trying to prepare kids for college and to partner with them academically. I hope it puts more responsibility on the parents and students.</p> <p>Steve: You have people who are going to complain but not come up with any solution. The kids don't run the school. I am willing to give this tool to Jessie, but how will you enforce it?</p> <p>Jessie: I also feel that I listened, I compromised the most, and if there is buy in there is no need for enforcement. Professionalism is the first impression then creativity comes when they get to know them. The process is good but could be better. I have had many email conversations with the teachers about enforcement. I have given the teachers their top 10 consistent things to do. If we are consistent for the kids it will be better.</p> <p>Eric A: Buy in and investment are two sides of the same coin. I think there is something about process and product and intended effects.</p>

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	<p>Eric M: Eric, your eloquence is amazing and I feel clumsy when I hear you speak. There are some times when a democratic process is appropriate in school and sometimes when it falls out of it. Democracy diluted the intent of the school from academy to a feel-good school. It is a valuable concept but that is not the concept of this school, this dress code could help do this.</p> <p>Terryl: I feel very emotional about this subject. We need to as a board step back and make a decision. Committees are great and many have had a chance for buy in. Student have had buy in. Other school boards set the rules and you just have to live with it, with no buy in whatsoever. Parents don't take advantage of the opportunity to be involved. We can only give them the opportunity and if they don't take it, it is not our fault.</p> <p>Eric A: Then we have completely failed.</p> <p>I don't agree. This is not a uniform policy. I would have you all wear the same things and that would be a uniform. This is about education, not about what to wear. I see underwear everywhere when I come to the school, this dress code will eliminate that. I feel we should give Jessie the opportunity to try this. This is her responsibility, as a board lets support her vision. The loss to the students who leave, is a great education. Someone said they were accepted here no matter what they wear and they will still be accepted, no matter what they wear. We could talk over and over about this subject but if we do not make a decision then we have invalidated the process that the committee has gone through, that we instructed them to go through.</p> <p>Adam: A lot of what you said is also included in the current policy. I don't feel that two weeks is enough for the buy in.</p> <p>Steve: You will only get a fraction of people to come to the polls even when they have known about the election for months.</p> <p>Eric A: The goal is to get them all involved. The goal should be to get as much buy in as possible.</p> <p>Mark: I really respectfully disagree with you Eric. We have to teach democratic principals in school, but I don't think that the way the students dress is a democratic issue. I don't think getting buy in from every corner is absolutely necessary Eric. I take this as a symbolic point on Jessie's part. What does matter is Jesie sees a problem with students and faculty and that we can't get faculty to be consistent, then that is the bigger problem.</p> <p>Eric A: I honestly believe I am supporting Jessie by bringing up the process.</p> <p>Eric M: Remember, this is not set in stone.</p> <p>Paula: I think Steve mentioned we can always re-approach a policy that is not working. This is the board's policy for the school even though Jessie proposed it. When you focus on the task not what you are wearing, it is liberating. My kids have had experiences in all forms of dress codes. I was pleased to see people involved. We have had a lot of opportunities that they have not taken. Knowing that, at the end of the school year, we can always look at it again. There needs to be some measurement of outcome. I am not sure we have had enough time to see the impact on our recruitment, and I am not sure if this will be positive or negative for that.</p> <p>Jessie: As of today, returned enrollment is over 100 but less than 120. We have 238 students enrolled, we are graduating 30. I see this as a dress code.</p> <p>Mark: Are you saying this will help our recruitment?</p> <p>Jessie: Yes.</p> <p>Paula: Our goal was to elevate education, part of that is an image, a physical presentation.</p> <p>Carl: That may be true that if you look one way you get more attention, but that is more a problem with society in my opinion.</p> <p>Paula: Well, discussion is done, we need to vote on this issue. All in favor of approving the dress code as proposed: 5 in favor, 3 not in favor. The vote is passed.</p>

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	<p>Paula: Jessie, will you report on graduation for us.</p> <p>Jessie: It will be our second annual graduation. It is next Wednesday at 6:30 at the Allred Theater at the Browning Center. The board needs to be there at 6:30. We will be sitting on the stage.</p> <p>Paula: We will be sending a letter to Gold's Gym about the contract. I have asked Jessie to have us join UAPCS to help us, we can't do it alone.</p> <p>Steve: I have a neighbor who does Valpak who we may be able to get an add in a targeted area.</p> <p>Paula: Any ideas will help.</p> <p>Eric M: What about radio ads?</p> <p>Jessie: We have them on NPR, but radio campaigns are expensive.</p> <p>Mark: What about Channel 17, community TV. It could be a summer project with students.</p> <p>Jessie: We are wrapping a couple of busses.</p>
12	<p>Adam: I have a couple of people set up for the lecture series.</p> <p>Eric A: On the board portal is the nomination for the Chart School of the Year and Kelly Freeze for staff member of the year. Please go to it and read it. It was a good time to reflect on the school. He found an institute based on PBL. Paula replied that she has friends who have children who attend a school like that in Virginia.</p>
	<p>Next board meeting is June 25<sup>th</sup>. We skip July and then board meeting is August 13<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Paula: Bylaws are lacking. Nowhere does it say who is authorized to enter in to contracts. This summer we need to look at it.</p> <p>Steve mentioned that he can't get in to the portal yet. Terryl said she would talk to Garen</p>
13	<p>Steve motioned to close the general session and go in to the closed session. Eric A. seconded it. All were in favor, none were opposed.</p>
14	<p>Closed Session. Mark motion to go back to open session. Terryl seconded. Mark motioned to close open session. Steve seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed.</p>

**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

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Date	Decision/Description	Pass/Failed

**Next Meeting Agenda Topics**

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

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

In compliance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, not less than 24 hours' public notice of the agenda, date, time and place of each of its meetings will be given by:

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

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance or auxiliary services for these meetings should call the DASA office giving at least three working days notice.