

**DAVINCI ACADEMY OF THE SCIENCES AND ARTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES**

**2033 Grant Avenue Ogden, Utah 84401  
801.409.0700 davinciacademy.org**

JUNE 29, 2006

**DASA BOARD MEMBERS**

Debbie Legge, President	Present
Eric Stroup, Vice President	Present
Eric Matheson, Treasurer	Present
Dan Earley	Absent
Eric Amsel	Present
Iain Hueton	Present
Joe Oliva	Absent
Paula Dugan	Present

**DASA Director of Academic Services**

Lewis Reese, Principal	Present
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**DASA Community Development Director**

Nancy Jones	Present
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**1. Meeting Opening, Debbie Legge**

Quorum was established at 5:37 p.m. and the meeting was called to order. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting was postponed to allow the members to review them before voting.

**2. Community Development, Nancy Jones**

Nancy notified the board that the Swanson Foundation is donating health sciences equipment and they are bringing it by tomorrow before noon. Two grants went in this week and a Russian Program Grant was due tomorrow. She was looking for suggestions for a name for the Russian Program. There is a Department of Education Grant due in July for low-income and disabilities. She has not heard back from any of the Grants they have submitted so far.

**3. DAS Report, Lewis Reese**

Lewis expressed to the board the urgency in approving the amended and projected budgets for both the 2006 and 2007 school years. The state requires the board to approve them by July 1<sup>st</sup> and they will be submitted to the state by July 15. Lewis said that we received a calendar from the state offices listing all of the important dates and deadlines so that we can be more organized and on top of things. The board was explained the spreadsheet and reviewed the budget based off of our projected 325 student count. Eric Amsel asked if we were in need of increasing our faculty. Lewis explained that we don't need to increase our teachers for 325 students. He also explained that our benefit package has increased 8% this year but we were off-setting it by only paying 100% of the employee benefits. He has requested our package in writing from Educators Mutual and he will present it to the board at the next meeting. Eric Stroup asked regarding the total debt the school has incurred up to this point. Alexis Hicks said that she had emailed the board a listing of all of the outstanding bills owed at this time. Eric Stroup motioned to amend the agenda to vote on the AFR budget report. Paula Dugan seconded. Vote unanimous. Eric Stroup said he wants us to get in the habit of taking our student count and amending the budget every month. Eric Stroup moved to accept budget as proposed as it can be amended every second board meeting of the month. Eric Matheson seconded. Vote Unanimous. Lewis notified the board that the auditors from the state showed up on Monday and that they indicated on Thursday that their focus was no longer on our operational procedures but rather on our finances. They will continue to be there this week and come back next week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Lewis indicated that they will provide the board with a report of their directives and strong recommendations. Debbie said that the auditors asked her in a week or two to meet with them to go over their report. Eric Amsel noted to Debbie that he was available to meet with them or to help in any way possible. Eric Stroup said that we should look at this as a growth opportunity to find out where we error and to fix things. Lewis said that he had contacted the press and that there would be a release of the report so that we can get a positive reflection. Eric Stroup asked that the board be

updated daily when the auditors are there so they wouldn't be "in the dark". Debbie indicated that she felt that the auditors would come down hard on the board for not having more oversight. Lewis said that they have received around 5 to 6 more applications since the last meeting and that he has around 20 more students showing interest. He is also revisiting the 15 students that they denied, in particular the five students who parents have asked to meet with him. He told the board that they are having an open house on July 11<sup>th</sup> as well as the street stomp and dance on July 28<sup>th</sup>. He indicated that he has a good candidate from California for a counselor. Eric Stroup mentioned that there was immediate need to get that taken care of as soon as possible. Eric Stroup asked if Lewis had talked to the state regarding the question they had on the charter. Lewis stated that he did talk to John Broberg and that the contract is not an issue. The charter was to start up the school but that it could be amended with 2/3 vote from the board and the changes submitted to the state. The board asked about a replacement for an EM teacher. Eric Stroup said we need to hit the market hard because it's a tight commodity and maybe start looking into a Plan B or using a certified grad. Student. Eric asked about Jack's presentation being available on the website. Debbie said that she had a text version she would have Garen put on the website. Eric Matheson asked if we had hired a Special Education teacher. Lewis stated that he would relist the opening on the Utah website tomorrow but that they were looking at alternative plans. There is a state program with Utah State and Southern University that allow students with a bachelor degree to be considered "highly qualified" if they concurrently take classes. We could also contract with other school districts and use their teachers as supervisors and then have paraprofessionals. Eric Amsel indicated that he had a graduate student that might be interested. Lewis indicated that they might get approximately \$25,000 from 2005 and next year will receive \$43-44,000. Eric Amsel asked where we were in regards to a Math teacher. Lewis stated that the one he was interested in didn't want to work with the lower level math classes so he is still looking for a science and math teacher.

#### **4. Recruiting Report**

Debbie stated that she felt that the board has failed in helping with funding and recruitment. She wanted to go around and each board member say what they have done or are willing to do in those areas.

- A. Eric Stroup – said that he has done nothing and will be gone for a month in a half so he is not available to help during the summer.
- B. Paula Dugan – said she has gone to the base @ bi-weekly intros and she will be gone next open house.
- C. Eric Matheson- Said he was willing to participate however, he felt that the teachers all needed to be actively involved as well.
- D. Iain Hueton – He said that he tries to recruit with the curling club and he is on the Parks & Rec. committee board with the city. The board thought it might be a good idea to hand out fliers with ongoing sporting events throughout the summer. Eric Stroup indicated he did not think this was an effective use of a board meeting. The board meetings should be for board actions only and they should have a special recruitment meeting to discuss recruitment. Debbie noted.
- E. Eric Amsel- Noted he supports Paula but also has low availability this summer.
- F. Debbie Legge- noted that she is working on recruiting Hispanic groups.

#### **5. President's Report, Debbie Legge**

Debbie said that she has met with Katina Martinez and that she was supportive of helping revise the Charter and was happy to come to a board meeting. She is also helping with the recruitment of the Latina population and the expansion of our Charter to a K-8. She was looking into doing summer camps as it would help with additional revenue and exposure. We don't know how effective it would be this summer but definitely for next summer.

#### **6. New Business**

Debbie asked Nancy how much grant money we had left over and Nancy indicated around \$3000. Debbie said we could use that as a "Get your Math Skills up" camp before school starts. Iain stated that their weakest link in the intern program was the lack of accountability for students. He suggested having Garen set up an interactive database that the students could sign into and do a status check. Paula Dugan indicated that she was still attempting to put together a strategic plan. She handed out her modified version of a vision/mission statement and asked that it be on the next meetings agenda. Eric Matheson indicated that he was concerned with the academic calendar. According to our charter we should follow Ogden's

school district and the holidays do not coincide. Eric Stroup asked that all of these documents be put on the website as "draft documents" to get feedback.

#### 7. **Old Business**

Eric Matheson indicated a concern with the DAS's contract. He said it was not an issue with the DAS but rather in the manner in which it was issued. He said that we should either amend the charter and then ratify his contract or amend his contract to be a one year contract. Eric Stroup indicated that he does not have an issue with a three year contract as long as it has the words "at-will" and has a discipline policy in it. Eric Matheson stated that if they have the DAS contract be a three year contract they should also have the teachers on a three year contract. Eric Stroup indicated he thought it should be a case by case basis. Eric Amsel stated that there should be four components to a contract: at-will, due process, discipline, and evaluation/training. If we have a three year contract it should be very clear with clear standards and processes. Eric Matheson motioned to amend the agenda to take action on the DAS's contract. Iain seconded. Debbie opposed the rest in favor. Eric Matheson motioned to discuss moving the contract to a one year contract. Eric Stroup seconds. Debbie stated that its important to have at least a three year contract for stability, financial and funding reasons, as well as the DAS has been approached by three different schools and it puts us at a risk of losing him. Eric Stroup motions to amend motion to amend our charter to a case by case basis and to ratify the DAS's contract. Eric Matheson accepted the amendment. Vote unanimous. Paula Dugan asked why the Charter had it limited to a one year contract to begin with. Eric Stroup said that they used a template charter from AMES. Eric Stroup asked that they put the communications document for next meeting on the agenda as well as discussions for a board secretary. Eric Matheson stated that in the Board by-laws, article 6.1 & 6.2 the executive committee can make decisions if there is not a quorum established. Debbie stated the next board meeting would be Thursday, July 13.

#### 8. **Open Public Comment (3 minutes per person)**

- A. **Andrew Krogman** – not present
- B. **Anthony Gonzales** expressed that he was mis-represented in the emails sent around. He knows the board appreciates him and he appreciates the board. Would like an apology from the woman responsible for the emails.
- C. **Kelly Freeze** also would like the board to take into consideration MOPA and OPA when revising the calendar. She was concerned with upcoming IEP's and the hiring of a special education teacher. She indicated that a lot of parents were expecting pre-school testing for placement. She expressed her appreciation for the board's willingness to bring up and discuss difficult issues.
- D. **Larry Freeze** expressed a concern with the lighting for the Street Stomp and Dance. What is being done to ensure that the wrong people don't show up and that everyone will be safe?
- E. **Adrian Maxson** suggested renting out a pool and having a recruitment party/meeting and selling the tickets. He expressed a concern about fees and what the students were being charged for lockers.
- F. **Denise Bingham** noted that the opinions of her child are not necessarily the same as hers.
- G. **Jessie Kidd** noted that the one year contracts were very appealing to her because it was discouraging for a new teacher to be around teachers who had tenure. She expressed a concern over the school being a stable entity and that we need to stick together and stop the disgusting emails. If we all buy into who we are and used our "common sense" we could conquer a lot more.

#### 9. **Adjournment**

Eric Stroup thanked everyone for coming and apologized to Anthony and thanked him as well as Alexis, Shirley, Debbie, Lewis and Nancy. Lewis stated his appreciation for the support shown by the board and welcomed conversation by those sending emails and asked that the questions be directed to him. Eric Amsel motions to adjourn. Paula seconds. Vote unanimous, meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alexis Hicks

\*Note – minutes from previous meeting were not approved.